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Ultra-orthodox press Sabbath protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Hurling dirty diapers, stones and bottles at police and passing cars, about 1,000 ultra-orthodox Jews demonstrated on Saturday against a supreme court order to keep a city road open to traffic on the Jewish Sabbath. The protesters shouted "shabbos, shabbos" — Yiddish for "Sabbath" — and repeatedly tried to block disputed Bar-Ilan street but were pushed back by police. Two cars' windshields were smashed, but no injuries or arrests were reported. Ultra-orthodox Jews demand the street, where most residents are religious, be closed to traffic on the Jewish Sabbath, which lasts from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. The issue has become a focus of the intensifying cultural clash between religious Israeli Jews and members of the secular majority, who fear capitulation could lead to similar demands spreading throughout the country.

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Greece, Cyprus urge peaceful solution

NICOSIA (AFP) — Cyprus and Greece on Saturday called for a peaceful solution to the division of the Mediterranean island, and said they would not rise to Turkish provocation after this week's wave of ethnic violence. Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis and Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides said in a joint statement that they "refused to be drawn into the Turkish plan aimed at provoking an escalation." The statement, released after Mr. Simitis attended a meeting of the Cypriot National Council here, also said Nicosia and Athens planned to "reinforce their military and political cooperation" in the wake of the violence. In their statement, the Greek and Cypriot leaders warned that although they rejected the use of violence, any act of Turkish provocation "would not pass without a response."

King: Jordan faces order or chaos

Karak under curfew; unrest flares at several other spots in south

From Ayman Al Safadi in Karak

TENSION REMAINED high in Karak late Saturday as the southern city was placed under curfew at 7 p.m. and the army moved into the streets and took positions on rooftops after two days of violence during which police battled with rioters protesting the two-fold increase in bread prices. Soldiers replaced anti-riot police who had clashed with about 2,000 demonstrators after noon prayers.

There were no signs though that the riots, which erupted Friday, would end as city residents insisted on their demands for a reversal of the decision to lift subsidies for bread and the resignation of the government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

The city was quiet earlier Saturday morning but violence flared anew after noon prayers when hundreds of people pelted police with stones. Police used tear-gas to disperse the rioters who put a Ministry of Education building under fire and attacked at least five banks.

Two people were reportedly injured in the centre of Karak and two people, Salah Al Masri, an Egyptian, and Hitham Dmour, suffered wounds during clashes in Al Marjeh district at the outskirts of the city. Their condition was reported stable.

About 2,000 people took part in the riots, shouting slogans demanding the downfall of the Kabariti government and blocking streets.

Despite government assertions that the riots were organised by leftist political parties, city residents and dignitaries insisted the riots were a spontaneous reaction to the hike in the price of bread.

"We are not politicians. All we want is to get our bread," an elderly man who was arguing with police in front of the governorate building told the Jordan Times. "We also want the resignation of the Kabariti government," shouted another as youngsters said they also want the release of detainees whose number is at least 40.

City residents said they also wanted police to withdraw from the city, saying that the strong show of force



A scene from the trouble-hit city of Karak on Saturday (photo by Yusef Allan)

fuelled violence in the city.

Anti-riot police earlier in the day took positions in the streets but were replaced by army soldiers in the evening.

"The unnecessary presence of police is what provoked people," Karak Deputy Nazih Ammarin told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Ammarin, who appears to have gained additional popularity among

the youngsters who battled police, also denied that political parties were behind the riots.

"The city has turned into a military barracks," a mosque preacher said in reference to the strong presence of anti-riot and desert police in the city.

Despite the restoration of tense calm to the city, groups of youngsters

(Continued on page 7)

King visits Karak, says either there is a state or there are outlaws who want to undermine the country

KARAK (Agencies) — As riots over bread prices rocked southern Jordan for a second day on Saturday, His Majesty King Hussein, touring the region, told troops the country faced a choice between order and chaos.

The King visited the key centre of unrest, Karak, in a motorcade.

In a speech to soldiers in Karak, King Hussein said he was "pained and saddened" by the violence but repeated his determination to crush the protests.

"We are standing on a threshold. Either there is a state or there are outlaws and people who want to sabotage this exemplary country," he said.

The King addressed soldiers at two locations during his visit and urged them to ensure the security of the people and their properties.

Following are the remarks made by the King during the visits:

"My greetings to all of you, in all circumstances and conditions. You Arab



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday visits Karak (Armed Forces photo)

Armed Forces and Public Security personnel, the shield of the country, who remain vigilant to safeguard it and protect the security of its citizens, who protect the citizens' right to live an honourable life.

"We are destined to confront challenges and perils, to build and achieve, God willing, all that we aspire for. Our goal in this life is to offer a better life for our people and for the coming generations.

"May this land remain Arab and independent. It is regrettable that we witness some violent acts at this critical stage in our life. Our country is known

(Continued on page 7)

Cabinet reviews situation and expresses satisfaction with moves already adopted

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers on Saturday held a regular session to review efforts by the country's security services to foil attempts by a limited group of people who have tried to incite sedition and unrest in Karak, Tafleeh and Ma'an.

In a statement issued after a regular session said the Cabinet listened to a detailed report by Interior Minister Awad Khleifat on the recent incidents. It quoted the minister as saying that around 600 people in Karak, 300 people in Tafleeh and 50 people in Ma'an were involved in Friday's riots and had instigated demonstrations and protests.

"When they failed in their attempts to draw other Jordanian citizens to these riots

the group smashed shop windows and attacked a number of institutions and set fire to others that offer service to the public," the statement said.

These included the Civil Service Consumers' Corporation in Karak, a municipality library, a mother and child health care centre in Tafleeh and the Islamic Bank in Ma'an, prompting the security forces to intervene and stop the riots, the statement added.

"The attackers were heard shouting anti-Jordanian slogans and instigating people to carry out acts of sabotage that harm national security," it said.

The Council of Ministers expressed satisfaction with the "firm measures taken in

the light of these acts," noting that the security forces exercised "self-restraint and avoided resorting to opening fire that would have endangered people's lives and this explains the few injuries resulting from the rioting," the statement said.

"While confirming its determined stand in the face of sabotage ... the Council of Ministers reiterates its keenness on safeguarding Jordan's security and territorial integrity and its resolve to pursue the march of democracy under the umbrella of law and order," it said.

"The Council of Ministers reaffirms the government's determination to carry out its policies on food supplies in pursuit of safeguarding

highest national interests, drawing on the confidence and the vigilance of the Jordanian people and their keenness to protect their country's security, stability and achievements," the statement said.

"The Council of Ministers is confident that Jordanian people's awareness and keenness on protecting their country will enable them to foil all attempts to harm the country's genuine democratic process which is regarded as a model for other countries in the region," it said.

"The Council of Ministers has taken appropriate measures and adopted necessary decisions to prevent

(Continued on page 7)

Islamists pat themselves in the back, but insist government should quit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The decision by Jordan's Islamists not to join any non-peaceful and illegal public protests against the increase in the price of bread has won them praise from His Majesty King Hussein and positive recognition from the government.

But while the Islamists take comfort from the fact that they have kept their distance from the riots that raged in the south over the past two days and the regime's recognition of that posture, their leaders still believe the government of Abdul Karim Kabariti should resign and the decision to increase the price of bread should be rescinded.

For the first time, the King "has done us justice," said Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Badr Riati (Aqaba) in reference to what he described as local and foreign media's stereotyping of Islamists as terrorists.

(The King) is very well aware that we would not spare any effort to ensure the safety and security of our country...but if the government has some self-

esteem, it should resign," IAF Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber (Amman) asserted that since 23 deputies voted against the government's decision to lift subsidies on bread and fodder and another 23 voted in favour of raising the price of bread by stages, then more than half of the House opposes the government's decision.

"The government totally ignored the House's wishes. Although (the prime minister) himself is a deputy and he is part of our democratic process, he turned his back on the House and the will of the people," said Deputy Jaber.

Several other IAF deputies interviewed by the Jordan Times also denounced the rioting in the south. "We have a well-known historic stand in adopting peaceful means to achieve our objectives," said one of them. "Such acts are so irresponsible that they will backfire on the people who committed them."

Deputy Riati stressed that "no one has the right to carry out any act that affects the security and safety of the country. There

(Continued on page 7)

Deputies condemn rioting; opposition deputies insist government is responsible

By Tareq Momani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of the Lower House of Parliament on Saturday strongly condemned the riots that erupted in southern Jordan on Friday and said such actions were aimed at tampering with the country's security and stability and at damaging public property.

Deputies of various affiliations told the Jordan Times they strongly deplored such violent protests against the government's decision to increase the prices of bread.

"Democracy does not tolerate such incidents nor does it give the right to any group of people to commit violent acts that contradict with our traditions, norms and values," said one deputy.

At least two deputies rejected suggestions that leftist groups were behind the rioting.

Toujan Faisal, Jordan's first elected woman member of Parliament, contented that security forces were behind the suggestions.

"They want to split the Islamists and leftists who are united in their opposition to the increase in the prices of bread," Ms. Faisal

told the Jordan Times. Khalil Haddadin, an Amman deputy known to be affiliated with the pro-Iraq Baathist Party, said he believed that the protests "stemmed from the frustration of the people rather than an organised move."

"As such I do not think any organised group, whether right or left, was behind the incidents," said Mr. Haddadin.

Other opposition members renewed demands that the government resign.

"The situation will not settle until the government resigns because it is responsible for the rioting," said Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Deputy Bassem Emoush.

IAF Spokesman Hamzeh Mansour added: "We do not condone acts of violence and we consider dialogue as the essential element of democracy."

Former Prime Minister and Deputy Taher Masri told the Jordan Times that he had predicted such events but "unfortunately we were accused of outbidding the government. I do not expect the government to resign soon but these events must have deeply

(Continued on page 7)

Upper House denounces violence, deplors destruction of public and private property

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Saturday condemned the rioting in southern Jordan and appealed for calm and for wise handling of the situation.

In a statement issued after a meeting under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, the Senate expressed regret over the developments and the damage to public and private property.

The statement blamed "elements that are alien to this country and its traditions and values" for the rioting.

The Senate statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said:

"The Senate held a meeting at the Hall of Pictures under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and reviewed the regrettable

incidents in southern towns which resulted in damage to public and private property.

"These serious actions of violence and instigation by elements that are alien to this country and its traditions and values were an infringement on the country's security and people's freedoms and properties."

"These elements were instigated by foreign circles that harbour harm and evil for this secure country and bear a grudge against Jordan for its steadfastness in the face of all conspiracies, its endurance in shouldering the message of progress and renaissance and its determination to pursue the democratic course and to open the door for its people's participation in shouldering responsibility."

"These elements have

resorted to inciting sedition with the purpose of undermining the country's security and stability and its steadfastness and to strike the democratic march, which is spearheaded by His Majesty the King and which has the trust of the people because they enjoy its fruits.

Confident in the people's awareness and wisdom to protect the march of development and progress, the Senate is certain that the people of Jordan are capable of confronting all attempts to sow sedition and carry out acts of sabotage.

"The Senate trusts in the people's national sense of belonging that can nip in the bud any hostile and evil acts that aim at destabilising the country's security and steadfastness and impede the progress of con-

struction and reform or derail the course of democracy which is based on respect of the Constitution and the rule of law.

"What pains us and increases our sorrow is to see these events occurring at a very critical stage facing the country and the region at large. This stage requires mobilisation of potential to enhance national unity and stability for the protection of the homeland and for the sake of fulfilling the aspirations of the Jordanian people in comprehensive development that would guarantee for Jordan self-reliance and secure its economic progress and help it deal with the problems of poverty and unemployment."

"The Senate voices deep appreciation and gratitude

(Continued on page 7)



PALESTINIAN POLICE GRADUATION: A Palestinian border policeman throws a weapon to his colleague during a Palestinian guard graduation party, attended by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Saturday (Reuters)

Lebanese group denounces election violations

BEIRUT (R) — A private Lebanese election watchdog group said on Saturday some pro-government candidates were using bribery, threats and state resources in their bid to win seats in Lebanon's parliamentary elections.

The Lebanese Association for the Democracy of Elections (LADE) said on the eve of Sunday's first round of voting that pro-government candidates were guilty of "practices and dealings that constitute violations of the law".

The association, formed in March by young Muslim, Christian and Druze intellectuals to promote public awareness of democratic rights and monitor the campaign and voting, has not been granted official recognition by Interior Minister Michel Al-Murr, who is a candidate in the elections and responsible for organising the vote.

However, LADE Secretary-General Paul Salem — son of a former foreign minister — told Reuters the group would have 150 trained volunteer observers monitoring the first round of voting in the Christian heartland of Mount Lebanon on Sunday.

In a communiqué published in Beirut newspapers, LADE said some candidates supported by the government were using public services and state resources in their campaign.

"This is contrary to the principle of neutrality that must be observed by the organisers of the elections," it said.

Some candidates or their supporters in Mount Lebanon and south Lebanon had been victims of aggression, it added.

The communiqué gave no details, but Nasib Lahoud, a prominent opposition candidate, on Thursday presented three supporters at an election rally in Mount Lebanon and said they had been detained by police without cause.

LADE's communiqué denounced the use of "the weapon of money with the aim of buying the conscience of voters or to acquire parliamentary seats," and proposed that a legal limit be set for campaign spending.

It also charged that a number of people recently granted Lebanese nationality by the interior ministry had been subjected to threats and intimidations, and "electoral blackmail".

It gave no details but opposition supporters have repeatedly charged that recently naturalised citizens in the Metn district, where Mr. Murr is running against tough opposition on Sunday, have been threatened with loss of citizenship unless they vote for his pro-government list.

Syrian premier in Iran in bid to improve ties

TEHRAN (AFP) — Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud Al Zoubi arrived here Saturday for a three-day official visit aimed at boosting political and economic cooperation with Iran.

Mr. Zoubi, who was greeted at the airport by Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi, is heading a high-level delegation, including six ministers.

The Syrian premier told reporters that his country sought to strengthen ties with Iran "at all levels based on their mutual interests."

Mr. Zoubi was to hold talks with Mr. Habibi later Saturday and meet President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Sunday.

A Syrian economic delegation arrived Monday to prepare documents to be signed during Mr. Zoubi's trip on bilateral economic cooperation.

They are to discuss cooperation in industry, agriculture, education and transport and Iran is to help build wheat silos, railways, cement factories and steel mills in Syria, according to Iranian sources.

The trip comes on the heels of a visit here by Turkey's pro-Islamic Premier Necmettin Erbakan and amid efforts by Iran to boost cooperation among Muslim countries against growing U.S. and Israeli influence in the Middle East.

Iran and Syria have a "united position in opposing foreign presence in the region and Zionist plots to expand its influence in Muslim countries," Iran's ambassador to Syria, Mohammad Hassan Akhtari, told AFP on Saturday.

He said the visit was "all the more important" since the United States has stepped up efforts to economically isolate the Islamic republic, which it accuses of supporting international terrorism.

Tehran and Damascus "will cooperate to oppose the sanctions and take a common strategic stance against Zionism and American imperialism," Mr. Akhtari added, referring to a new U.S. law punishing non-U.S. companies investing in Iran's or Libya's oil industries.

Tehran and Damascus, traditional allies in the region, are also to exchange views on regional developments and the Middle East peace process, which Iran fiercely opposes, state television said.

The two countries have been drawn closer since the Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in Israel in May and adopted a tough stand toward peace process.

Tehran, which does not recognise Israel, has been alarmed over recent moves by several Arab states and its western neighbour, Turkey, to establish links with the Jewish state. Iranian leaders have repeatedly urged moderate Muslim states to renounce economic and military links with Israel and the United States and opt for regional cooperation.

"Syria's bid to boost ties with Iran could be a model for other Muslim states to expand political, economic and military cooperation among themselves," the television said.

Seven Russian pilots escape from Taleban

DUBAI (Agencies) — Seven Russian pilots held hostage for over a year by the Taleban militia in Afghanistan have escaped in their own plane to the United Arab Emirates, dodging a jeep on the runway and evading pursuers in a plane and a helicopter.

They also brought three of their former captors with them, officials said.

The crew escaped Friday under the pretense of carrying out regular maintenance work on their Il-76 cargo plane in the southern Afghan town of Kandahar.

Once on the plane, the crew overpowered three guards from the Taleban movement, a hard line guerrilla group that had been holding them hostage since last August, said an official from Transavia, the UAE-based company that had leased the cargo plane.

The official, who requested anonymity, said the Russian air crew had been questioned and released by police in the UAE, while the three Taleban guards remained in police custody.

The fate of the guerrillas was not immediately clear.

The Russian crew were to be taken home aboard a special flight from Russia due to arrive in Sunday in the emirate of Sharjah, near Dubai, Russia's Itar-Tass news agency reported.

It said Russia's Deputy Prime Minister, Vitaly Ignatenko, and a team of medics would be aboard the flight.

Wakil Ahmad, Taleban spokesman in Kandahar, said the Russians had

escaped with three guards after pretending they wanted to carry out maintenance.

He said one Taleban jet ordered to chase the runaway plane could not take off because of a flat tyre and a second jet and a helicopter took off too late to catch the cargo plane.

Explaining how the pilots had escaped, Mr. Ahmad said the Russian airmen had been allowed to inspect their plane every two months to keep it airworthy.

Two checks took place on Friday and during the afternoon inspection the plane suddenly began racing along the runway. It skirted a jeep that tried to block its path and took off.

Mr. Ahmad said Russian airmen identified their plane as being from Afghanistan's state-run Ariana airline as they flew over Iran to Sharjah, a popular destination for shoppers from Russia and elsewhere in the former Soviet Union.

At the time of their capture in August 1995, the pilots were working for Aerostan, based in the Russian Republic of Tatarstan. The plane was on lease to Transavia.

Since the crew men were captured, Russian officials had conducted unsuccessful negotiations in a bid to win their release from the Taleban.

The Taliban forced the plane to land, saying it was headed for Kabul and was carrying ammunition destined for Afghan government forces. The plane was chartered by the Afghan government.

teacher who helped organise the reception said.

No casualties were reported following the strike which came a day after 11 civilians were killed in a series of rocket barrages which hit the same area of war-torn Kabul, doctors said.

Friday's attack damaged several houses in the suburb of Kart-E-Seh, including one belonging to a foreign aid agency. Nobody was killed or seriously wounded in the attack which took place late in the afternoon, hospital staff said.

The heavily damaged area of the city is a regular target for the almost daily rocket and shell attacks which the government blames on the Taleban who have been besieging Kabul for 11 months.

The Taleban have vowed they will topple the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and instal strict Islamic law across Afghanistan which has been torn apart by four years of inter-factional fighting.

Five mortars slammed into the largely deserted area of the battered southern suburbs where officials were preparing a celebration to mark Afghanistan's independence from Britain, they said.

Top officials including government ministers were expected to attend the function being held in a school just five kilometres from the frontlines which separate government forces from the Taleban, they said.

"The mortars came into the area over a period of a few hours, but luckily nobody was injured or killed in the attack," witness Mohammad Akram said.

"The Taleban were obviously trying to disrupt the independence day festivities and fired rounds around the area to pinpoint the exact location of the function," a

Taleban pound Kabul ahead of celebrations

KABUL (AFP) — The Taleban militia fired a salvo of mortars on southern Kabul Saturday just ahead of a state reception due to be attended by top government leaders, officials and witnesses said.

Five mortars slammed into the largely deserted area of the battered southern suburbs where officials were preparing a celebration to mark Afghanistan's independence from Britain, they said.

Top officials including government ministers were expected to attend the function being held in a school just five kilometres from the frontlines which separate government forces from the Taleban, they said.

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Chilean choppers to help U.N. in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Five Chilean helicopters engaged by the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of dismantling Iraq will start operating from Monday, a spokesman for the commission said on Saturday.

Stewart Pinnosc told reporters they would replace two German helicopters and were accompanied by 41 Chilean servicemen under the command of Guillermo Navarro of the Chilean air force. Mr. Pinnosc said the helicopters, which arrived in Baghdad on Thursday, were smaller UH-1Hs. He said UNSCOM would hold a ceremony in which German pilots would hand over to the Chileans at Rasheed military airport in Baghdad, which the helicopters would use for their flights. They would support UNSCOM's and the International Atomic Energy Agency's work, "transporting inspectors and equipment as well as providing a platform for aerial inspection work."

Iran to hold by-elections in January

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran will hold parliamentary by-elections in January to elect deputies for 22 vacant seats in the assembly, the Interior Ministry has announced Saturday.

The ministry, quoted in newspapers, said the polls on Jan. 20 would cover 15 constituencies throughout the country. During the general elections in March and April, the authorities cancelled votes for those constituencies because of what they called "irregularities."

The Islamic right-wing conservatives won the majority of the seats in the 270-member parliament against a coalition of moderates and left-wingers close to President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The conservatives are hoping for a strong showing in January's vote to strengthen their position for the presidential elections due to be held in August 1997.

Man paid \$20 to slit throats

ALGIERS (AFP) — A man was paid 1,000 dinars (\$20) by an unspecified armed group to slit the throats of a woman and her two children in the southern town of Blida, the newspaper Le Matin reported Saturday. According to the paper, the man who carried out the attack last week said in his defence that the group asked him to do it, so "I did it."

The newspaper said the armed group filmed the executions of its victims. A video seized by the security forces during a raid on the group showed a man having his throat cut. After separating the head from the victim's body, "each of the terrorists takes the citizen's head and spits on it," the article said. "The current accepted hypothesis is that this video cassette in which one sees how the attacker goes for the victim is intended as a practical course for other terrorists," Le Matin wrote.

Egyptian espionage writer dies at 67

CAIRO (AP) — Saleh Morsi, a popular Egyptian writer who based his novels and screenplays on cases of Egyptian espionage against Israel, died Friday. He was 67. Morsi died of a heart attack at his home in the Mediterranean port of Alexandria, Egyptian newspapers said. Morsi began working in the 1950s as a journalist for the prominent Al-Musawwar magazine and other publications during the heyday of Arab nationalism and conflict with Israel. But he was better known for his novels and screenplays. His most popular work was the television series "Raafat Ali Haggan," based on the life of an Egyptian agent whose spying on Israel helped Egyptian forces cross the fortified Suez Canal in the 1973 war. Another work was the screenplay for the film "The Climb to the Abyss," based on the life of another Egyptian spy. Morsi is survived by his wife Wagiba Fadel, a television director, and a son and daughter.

Briton gets 5 years on drug charge

TANGIERS (AP) — A court on Friday sentenced a British man to five years in prison for drug trafficking after arresting him and his wife in front of their eight-year-old daughter. David A. Richards, 37, was convicted of trying to smuggle 222.5 kilograms of hashish from Tangiers, a seaport on the Mediterranean coast of Morocco. Authorities also had arrested his wife, 40-year-old Jill E. Richards, but acquitted her of the same charges. David Richards can appeal the sentence, but would face a Moroccan government emboldened by its recent crackdown on the country's lucrative drug trade. Police have arrested numerous foreigners in recent months. The Richardses were arrested on Aug. 7 after authorities found the drugs, with a street value of roughly \$1 million, hidden in the frame of the family's Volkswagen. Their daughter, Victoria, watched on helplessly as her parents were led away; the British consulate took care of her pending the trial, which began Thursday.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05.....Cartoon — The Mask
15:30.....Mac and Matley
16:00.....Italian Soccer
17:00.....Science Cartoon
17:15.....La Vie Devant Moi
17:30.....Game Show — Pyramid
18:00.....Magazine — La Marche
Du Siecle/Part One
19:00.....Le Journal
19:15.....Magazine — Sports Et
Musique
19:30.....News Headlines
19:35.....Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
20:00.....American Chart Show
20:45.....The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
21:10.....Black's Magic
22:00.....News in English
22:25.....Frenchie
23:30.....Short Story Cinema —
"Missing Parents"
23:59.....Nelson's Column

PRAYER TIMES

04:33.....Fajr
05:57.....(Sunrise) Duha
12:40.....Dhuhr
16:19.....Asr
19:23.....Maghreb
20:46.....Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swifield, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church
Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 834328
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:
Hot weather conditions will prevail with temperatures above average by 3-4 degrees centigrade and winds northwesterly moderate to active. On Monday, temperatures are expected to drop with normal summer weather conditions prevailing. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mazin Nballi.....830435
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul.....898140
Dr. Fayez Dabbas.....759155
Dr. Fakher Belbeisi.....663412
Firas pharmacy.....661912
Ferdows pharmacy.....778336
Al Asema pharmacy.....637055
Nalroukh pharmacy.....623672
Al Salam pharmacy.....636730
Yacoub pharmacy.....644945
Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660
Najib pharmacy.....847632
IRBID:
Dr. Mazin Abu Bakir.....276852
Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Mazin Al Safarini.....985832
Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111

Civil Defence Department

661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue
630341
Civil Defence Emergency
199
Rescue Police.....192.621111.637777
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....843402
Armed Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....630321
Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water & Sewage Complaints.....87467
Amman Municipality Complaints
787111
Telephone Information (directory
assistance).....121
Overseas Calls.....010230
Central Amman Telephone
Reparis.....623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101
Jordan Television.....773111
Radio Jordan.....774111
Water Authority.....680100
J. Electricity Authority.....815615
Electric Power Co.....636381
RJ Flight Information.....08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre.....813813/32
Khalidi Maternity.....642811/6
Akileh Maternity.....642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....636140
Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071
Shmeisani Hospital.....669131

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
09:30.....Jeddah (RJ)
09:55.....Larnaca (RJ)
10:05.....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:10.....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:20.....Beirut (RJ)
10:50.....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:05.....New York (RJ)
18:00.....Paris (RJ)
18:15.....Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
18:25.....Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:50.....London (RJ)
19:15.....Athens (RJ)
19:25.....Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
19:30.....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:45.....Frankfurt (RJ)
20:25.....Rome (RJ)
20:30.....Tunis (RJ)
21:45.....Athens, Vienna (RJ)
01:10.....Cairo (RJ)
06:00.....Salalah (add) (RJ)
Other Flights
06:30.....Tel Aviv (LY)
12:30.....Doha (Q7)
13:40.....Bahrain (GF)
15:05.....Moscow (SU)
16:30.....Dubai (EK)
20:35.....Cairo (MS)
21:10.....Beirut (ME)
22:15.....London, Beirut (BA)
23:20.....Istanbul (TK)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
04:00.....Jeddah (RJ)
06:10.....Madrid (RJ)
06:35.....Beirut (RJ)
09:30.....Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00.....Athens, Vienna (RJ)
12:00.....Tunis (RJ)
12:15.....Rome (RJ)
12:15.....Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:30.....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:20.....Athens (RJ)
13:25.....London (RJ)
21:10.....Cairo (RJ)
21:20.....New Delhi (RJ)
21:30.....Salalah (add) (RJ)
22:10.....Jeddah (RJ)
22:15.....Damascus (RJ)
22:20.....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30.....Jeddah (RJ)
22:45.....Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:50.....Bangkok (RJ)
23:45.....Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights
06:40.....London (KJ)
07:25.....Tel Aviv (LY)
09:15.....London (BA)
12:00.....Sanaa (TY)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple.....700/500
Banana.....600/600
Banana (mukhammar).....520/520
Banana (imported).....860/600
Carrot.....160/90
Cauliflower.....360/240
Cucumber (large).....240/140
Cucumber (small).....420/250
Eggplant.....220/140
Garlic.....650/400
Grapes.....420/250
Lemon.....650/450
Marrow (large).....250/150
Marrow (small).....430/260
Mulukhiyah.....120/80
Onion (dry).....150/80
Okra.....850/500
Pea.....500/300
Peanut.....800/500
Peach.....800/500
Pepper (hot).....340/200
Pepper (sweet).....380/240
Potato.....350/220
String Bean.....750/500
Sweet melon.....270/150
Tomato.....120/70

Sampras, the tennis star, is in the French Open final. The match is expected to be a long one. The French Open is one of the four Grand Slam tournaments. Sampras is a top player in the world. He has won several titles. The match is expected to be a long one. The French Open is one of the four Grand Slam tournaments. Sampras is a top player in the world. He has won several titles. The match is expected to be a long one.

Russians, Chechen rebels confirm ceasefire deal

NOVYE ATAGI, Russia (R) — Chechenya's rebel chief of staff and Russia's acting military commander in the Caucasus region said Saturday they had issued orders formalising a ceasefire.

The two men, speaking after almost four hours of talks, said they had agreed that the fighting must stop. "We came to the general conclusion that we have to cease fire, that there should not be any more victims and that peace should come to this land," Russian Commander Konstantin Pulikovskiy told reporters.

The Chechens had said after a meeting between Gen. Pulikovskiy and rebel Chief-of-Staff Aslan Maskhadov earlier this week that a ceasefire had been agreed, but Russian military officials had viewed that more as an informal deal not to shoot first.

Commander Maskhadov said that Saturday's deal replaced this informal agreement. "Earlier this had been verbal, but now it has been officially documented that we are ceasing fire from 10 a.m. (0600 GMT) today," he said.

Gen. Pulikovskiy said:

"We discussed the orders about the ceasefire. The orders were signed on that side and on my side."

The latest talks followed two visits to Chechenya by Alexander Lebed, President Boris Yeltsin's special representative in the region.

Several aides were present as the meeting began, but Commander Maskhadov and Gen. Pulikovskiy later talked one-on-one in an open-sided tent just outside the village of Novye Atagi, some 25 kilometres south of the Chechen capital.

Discussions seemed to focus on a document several pages long. The two men appeared to be discussing the paper point by point, but reporters were kept just far enough away to miss the conversation, although they could see what was going on.

Military helicopters hovered overhead as the two men met on a cool, overcast day.

It was the second meeting between the two men in less than a week and rebel spokesman Movladi Udugov, speaking before the talks, said they would aim to approve documents on halting military activities

and defining zones of responsibility in the capital Grozny.

The rebels, who seek independence for their Caucasus region, attacked Grozny on Sept. 6 and have captured most of it from Russian troops.

Clashes have died down since the commanders first met, but both sides accused the other Saturday of breaking agreements not to shoot first.

"The Russians would like the fighters to leave Grozny but we have rejected that," an aide to Commander Maskhadov said.

Mr. Udugov accused Russia of air strikes in the breakaway region. But the report could not be confirmed.

Russian military representatives said Chechenya was generally quiet Saturday, but they said their forces had come under fire 20 times in the last 24 hours.

Interfax News Agency quoted a spokesman for the Russian Federal Command as saying the rebels had attacked a unit of the 205th Motorised Brigade based at Russia's Khankala stronghold outside Grozny, killing two servicemen and wounding

two. Hundreds of civilians, soldiers and rebels have been killed in the recent fighting in Grozny and more than 30,000 people are estimated to have died since Russia sent troops to the region in December 1994 to crush the independence bid.

Reuter cameraman Arbi Zubairayev, who visited Grozny Saturday morning, said the centre was totally controlled by the rebels. Russian helicopters flew overhead but he saw no warplanes and was unable to confirm reports of air strikes.

Rebel Commander Khedbir Khachukayev said he had heard Gen. Lebed on the radio talking about his peace initiative in the region.

"The war is obviously ending. What will we do? We can't do anything else, for the past two years all we've done is learn how to fight," he said.

President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree Saturday reducing military service for conscripts in Chechenya by one day for every day in the conflict zone, ITAR-TASS news agency said.



A separatist rebel gets into a truck as smoke billows from behind the Lenin oil processing plant controlled by the separatist fighters in the Chechen capital of Grozny. The separatist rebels have controlled most of Grozny since Aug. 6, when they swept into the city and captured key buildings (Reuters photo)

Lebed snubs Kulikov, challenges Yeltsin to choose

MOSCOW (R) — Russian security supremo Alexander Lebed snubbed his rival, Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, Saturday after challenging President Boris Yeltsin to choose between them.

General Lebed declined an invitation to a closed meeting of top Interior Ministry officials which Mr. Kulikov was expected to attend.

"Alexander Lebed of course will not be accepting this invitation and has sent his representative, a general by rank, in his place," his press spokesman Alexander Barkhatov said.

"There is no sense in him going as there will be no serious discussions about Chechenya. Mr. Kulikov's deputies will all be there, trying to work out what tactics to use to save him."

Gen. Lebed, who shot to power in the Kremlin after a strong performance in the first round of the recent presidential election, declared Friday that Mr. Kulikov should be sacked for mishandling the Chechenya conflict.

"The minister of interior

of Russia did not fulfil his duty before Russia. I'm totally sure he cannot remain minister any longer," he told a news conference Friday after returning from talks with separatist leaders in Chechenya.

"Now I address Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin: You will have to make a difficult choice. Only one must stay — Lebed or Kulikov," the ex-paratrooper and Mr. Yeltsin's adviser on national security said.

There was no reaction from the Kremlin to the Lebed-Kulikov row. A spokesman for Mr. Yeltsin's press service, Andrei Biryukov, said he knew nothing about the president's plans for Mr. Kulikov.

The Interfax News Agency, however, quoted well-informed Kremlin sources as saying Yeltsin had had a "short telephone conversation" with Mr. Kulikov Friday and had ordered him to stay at his post.

Mr. Kulikov's Interior Ministry troops have been fighting, and dying, in their hundreds, alongside the regular army in Chechenya

since Mr. Yeltsin sent in his forces to halt a three-year independence drive in December 1994.

Gen. Lebed's recent appointment as secretary of Mr. Yeltsin's policy-making Security Council and special envoy to Chechenya set him against Mr. Kulikov, who has survived shake-ups which saw off a string of ministers accused of bungling the Chechen campaign.

Mr. Yeltsin, 65, has kept a low profile since before his runoff election win on July 3. Germany's mass-circulation Bild Zeitung said Saturday rumours were flying in the diplomatic community that he needed a heart transplant — or had already had one.

A Kremlin spokesman said he knew of no plans for surgery and stressed that Mr. Yeltsin would be having only routine medical check-ups during a holiday in the Moscow region.

Mr. Yeltsin's heart problems caused him to enter hospital twice last year, but his aides say he now has no serious health problems except for "colossal weariness" caused by the vigor-

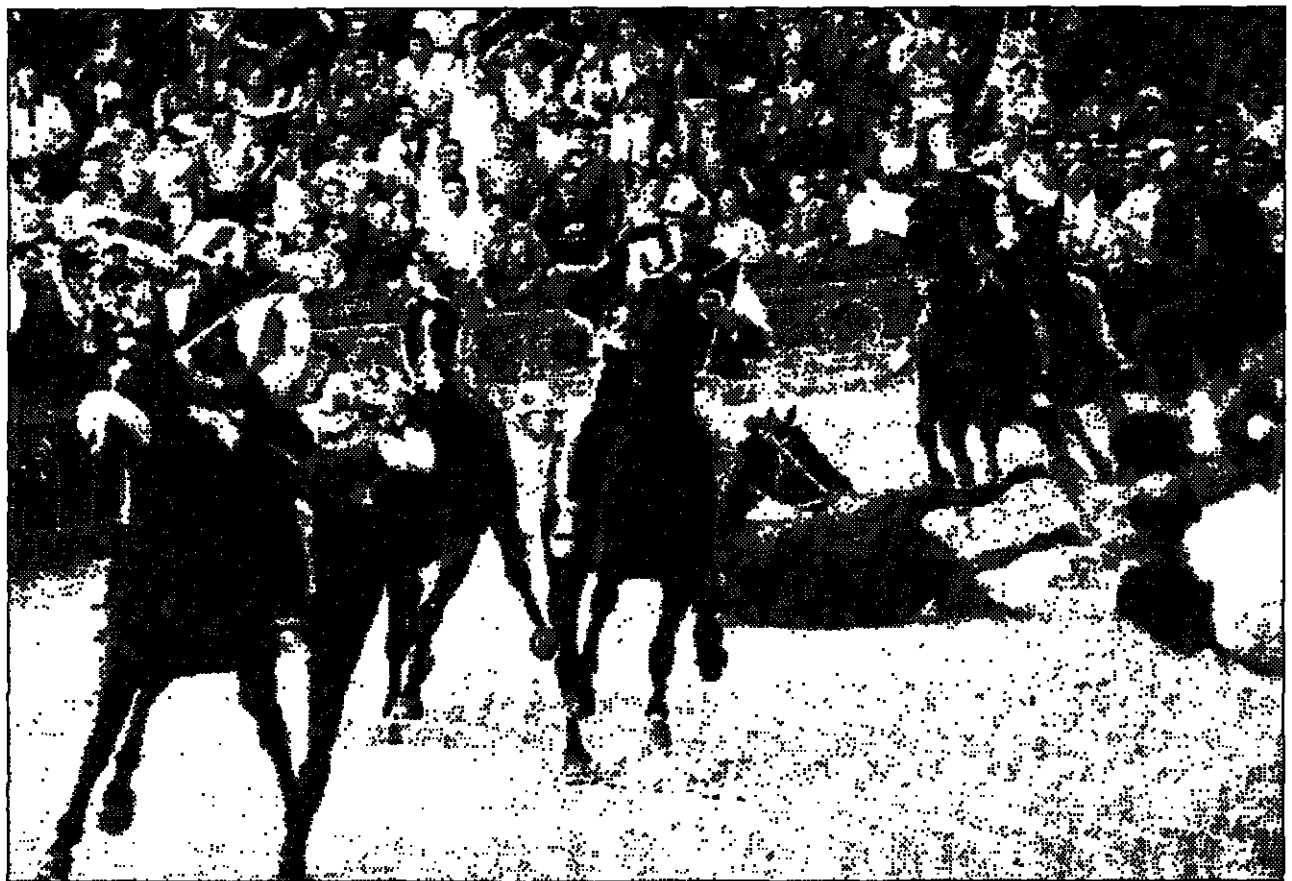
ous reelection campaign.

Mr. Kulikov was infuriated by the accusations of the gruff Gen. Lebed, who seems keen to take on the load of resolving the bloody Chechenya conflict.

"In connection with the false accusations and insults made against me by the secretary of the Security Council, I am sending a report to the president of the country asking him to resolve the issue of my tenure of office," he said Friday.

Gen. Lebed, who had broken with the Kremlin's tradition of keeping in-fighting under wraps, said Friday he had not yet had a chance even to inform Mr. Yeltsin of the results of his mission to Chechenya. Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman could not say if the two men had spoken Saturday.

Gen. Lebed's peace mission was aimed at ending the worst fighting in Chechenya in more than a year, which began on Aug. 6 when rebels raided the capital Grozny. Hundreds of people have been killed and the rebels now control much of the city.



Siena parish wins first Palio race for 41 years

SIENA, Italy (R) — A Siena neighbourhood that had not won the town's medieval Palio Horse Race for 41 years finally tasted victory, but animal lovers are certain to cry foul after a horse was seriously injured. The 'Brucio,' one of 10 'contrade' or local parishes to take part in the dangerous bareback dash around Siena's sloping main square, broke its historic losing streak with the help of a veteran jockey and sheer luck. Salvatore Ladu, nicknamed 'Cianchino,' rushed to his eighth victory in the race that began in 1224, when two horses that had been leading crashed into a wall at one of the hairpin turns on the last lap in Piazza Del Campo. Italian news agency AGI said one of the horses, five-year-old Summer Solstice, had suffered fractures in both rear legs and would have to be put down. Animal rights activists, including Italian film director Franco Zeffirelli, have long urged a ban on the race, calling it medieval butchery and blaming its organisers for caring little about the horses. Summer Solstice will be the 35th horse to be put down since 1967 after falling in the race, which is run twice a year on July 2 and August 16. A chorus of protest is certain to erupt again, as in 1993 when three horses were put down after suffering fractures. Television showed delighted residents of the Brucio quarter waving flags, crying and hugging each other as they surrounded 'Cianchino' on his thoroughbred Rosa Rose in celebration of the overdue victory. They were applauded by many other Siena residents despite historic rivalries which often flare up during the run for the 'Palio' or banner depicting the Virgin Mary, which gives the race its name. The photograph shows two horses colliding as they ride around Siena's sloping main square (Reuters photo)

Aid workers fear attacks in Burundi after tightening of sanctions

BUJUMBURA (R) — Aid workers said Saturday they feared attacks on food convoys in Burundi with tighter sanctions to block food aid for up to a quarter of a million displaced Burundians.

Two planes flew about 20 non-essential U.N. staff and family members out of Bujumbura for Nairobi, Kenya, reducing the total number of U.N. staff in the Burundian capital to 140.

Regional African ministers in charge of sanctions against Burundi Friday left food aid for up to 250,000 displaced Burundians off a short list of items exempted from the embargo.

"Only human medicines will be exempted and emergency basic food aid to Rwandan refugees in Burundi," the ministers said.

Military strongman Pierre Buyoya says sanctions on Burundi, which depends on tea and coffee exports as well as international aid for its economic survival, will not force him from power.

Resentment is already high between the 45,000 Rwandan Hutus, who fled to Burundi in 1994 in fear of being killed in reprisal for the genocide of up to one million people, and Burundian Tutsis who were displaced by massacres and civil war since 1993.

Rwanda and Burundi have the same ethnic mix of a Hutu majority and Tutsi minority. Tutsi displaced families in Burundi live in camps usually protected by Tutsi troops and militiamen.

Foreign ministers of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda after talks in Kampala Friday said they had also agreed to impose a travel ban on members of Maj. Buyoya's military-appointed government.

U.N. officials said they needed clarification on the change on food aid.

"This ban (on food for Burundian displaced) will create a security problem for us," Benoit Thiry, acting Burundi director for the World Food Programme (WFP), told Reuters in Bujumbura.

"In the past some people accused us of only working for the (Rwandan) Hutus. I am sure this will happen again," he added.

"For two years humanitarian organisations have been accused of feeding refugees rather than internally displaced," he said.

WFP food convoys were hijacked and looted and aid workers attacked in 1995 and early this year by members of Burundi's Tutsi minority who accused agencies of feeding Rwandan Hutus at the expense of local people.

Aid workers said they feared renewed attacks on aid convoys.

Regional states imposed sanctions on July 31, demanding a return to constitutional government and talks between Burundi's army and Hutu rebel groups, six days after the overthrow of Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya by the Tutsi-led military.

A U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) convoy loaded with food for Rwandan refugees and Burundian displaced reached Burundi from Tanzania Wednesday after Tanzania agreed to allow some food to reach the landlocked country despite sanctions.

Aid agencies have struggled to balance support for Rwandan refugees and provide care for the larger number of displaced.

Burundi's government said Saturday it would study the new moves and appealed for understanding from its neighbours.

"There is some misunderstanding between us and our regional friends, so we are going to press on with our efforts to explain to them the real situation," Maj. Buyoya's spokesman Jean-Luc Ndizeye told reporters.

Aid workers said the tightened sanctions might only serve to increase dependency on food aid because escalating prices were putting basic foodstuffs out of the reach of ordinary people.

They said Burundi was especially vulnerable to restrictions on medicine because its stock was already severely depleted.

A senior aid official said the new restrictions were bound to "breed resentment" among many Burundians at the embargo, which forced authorities to impose petrol rationing Tuesday.

Cubans saved after hijacked plane crashes into Gulf of Mexico

MIAMI (R) — A small plane hijacked by three Cubans who forced the pilot to fly to Florida plunged into the Gulf of Mexico Friday but all four were rescued, U.S. officials said.

The four Cubans were plucked from the ocean by a lifeboat from a nearby Russian freighter, about 80 kilometres off Naples on Florida's west coast. It was the third hijacking linked to Cuba in the past six weeks.

One of the men was taken to a hospital in Fort Myers with a broken nose, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

The three Cuban passengers immediately asked for political asylum, while the pilot said he wanted to go home, according to Russian crew members interviewed by U.S. Customs officials.

In Havana, the Foreign Ministry confirmed a small plane had been hijacked and urged the United States to honour existing immigration accords and hand back

the hijackers.

"We hope that the individuals involved will be returned in accordance with the existing immigration accords between Cuba and the United States," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mariamela Ferriol told reporters.

"If not, this would signify fresh encouragement for violent attempts to emigrate illegally," she added.

Cuban Civil Aviation officials said earlier that they had no knowledge of the hijack.

At the time of the crash, U.S. Customs agents said they were pursuing and videotaping the unidentified small plane as a possible drug smuggler.

"We will definitely explore this as possible drug smuggling but all indications at this point are that it was not drug-related," said customs spokesman Mike Sheehan.

Customs radar controllers detected the small aircraft at 9:10 a.m. EDT (1310 GMT) and sent a Cessna Citation Jet to intercept it. The customs plane followed the suspicious Cuban aircraft for more than an hour until the plane jettisoned its two doors and crashed into the ocean.

Officials said it was a single-engine Polish "Wilga" airplane, a six-seater often used as a platform for parachute jumpers.

Customs pilots were told by officers aboard the Russian ship that the pilot of the plane claimed he was hijacked by the passengers who used a gun or a knife, Mr. Sheehan said.

The three passengers apparently admitted hijacking the aircraft but they say that no weapons were involved," he said.

The crash took place near Sanibel Island, one of the state's most popular tourist resorts.

U.K. monarch's gems believed stolen

LONDON (R) — An 18th century diamond and pearl bracelet has disappeared from Buckingham Palace and royal sources said Saturday they believed one of Queen Elizabeth's own staff may have stolen the gems. Police said they were investigating a suspected theft of the bracelet, valued at up to £40,000 (\$62,000) which was kept in a locked display case in a corridor of the queen's London home. It was reported missing last month — before Buckingham Palace was opened up to the public last week for its annual eight-week tour season. "The queen finds it hard to believe that a member of her own staff would do such a thing, but that seems to be the only conclusion," the Daily Mirror quoted a Buckingham Palace insider as saying. The Mirror said the corridor runs past private rooms used by the queen and her husband Prince Philip and contains several cabinets containing jewellery and art. Police sources said they also suspected the theft was an inside job and they believe the bracelet may already have been smuggled abroad. The bracelet features a miniature portrait of King George III surrounded by a ring of pearls.

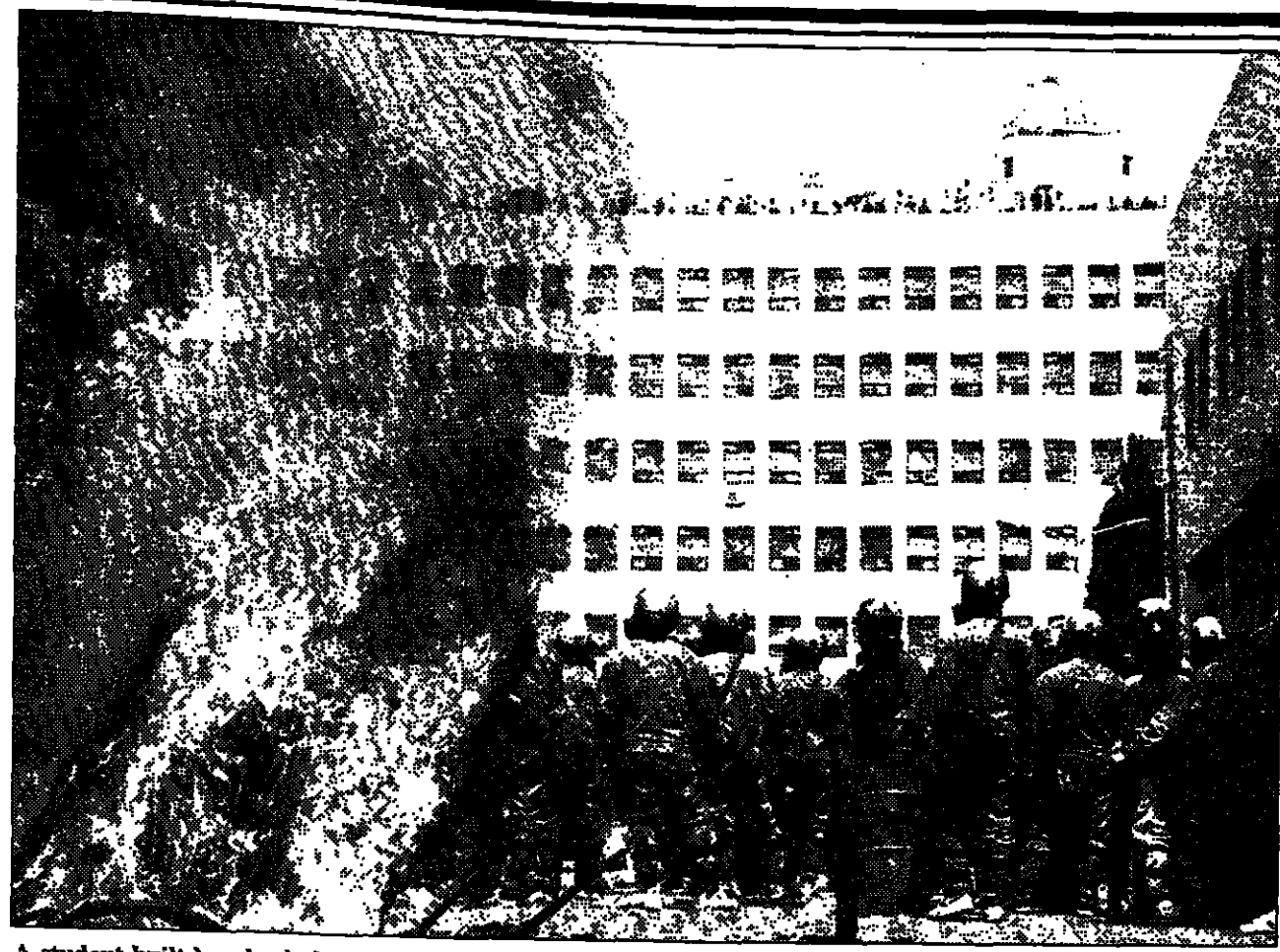
Woman caged by mother for 3 years

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (R) — A mentally handicapped Mexican woman was rescued Friday from a small cage her mother had locked her in for three years, officials said. The 35-year-old woman, identified as Martha, was found inside a locked, wrought-iron cage which measured 20 square feet (6 square metres) and was built along the side of a middle-class brick house in the border town of Ciudad Juarez. Neighbours told police Martha lived in the cage for three years and was visited about once a week by her mother who would bring her food, usually tortillas, and water. The neighbours said they would toss food to Martha if they did not see her mother for a while. "It was deplorable and inhuman the way that woman was kept," said Irma Hernandez, a social worker with the municipal police. She said police rescued Martha after receiving an anonymous call about her plight. It was not clear why neighbours had not notified them earlier. "It's sad, that's all I can say," Ms. Hernandez said. When police arrived at the home, they found Martha hiding inside a large hole in the brick wall. Neighbours said the woman screamed "don't hit me, don't hit me," as police lifted her out of the cage. Ms. Hernandez said Martha was severely malnourished. Police were searching for the woman's mother.

Andrew, Fergie leave holiday home

ORLEANS, France (AFP) — Britain's Prince Andrew and his former wife Sarah Ferguson left their holiday home in France Friday after spending six days together with their two children, police said. The pair, divorced in April but still on good terms, have been staying in a house near the village of Mezieres-Lez-Clery south of Orleans in central France. Locals said they hoped the stay in the Sologne region, famous for hunting, had helped them see eye to eye. "If the air of Sologne has a beneficial power to help bring the couple closer together, we can only be happy," local vicar Father Francois Garnier told a newspaper. According to local sources the pair went twice to a nearby golf course owned by Baron Bich, and once, on Wednesday, to Orleans, from where they returned at midnight.

U.K. monarch's
gems believed
stolen



A student-built barricade burns behind South Korean riot police as they look at the science building on Yonsei University campus where hundreds of radical students are making a last stand to avoid arrest in Seoul Saturday (Reuters photo)

South Korean police renew attacks on university campus

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean police renewed attacks Saturday on a university campus here as investigators zeroed in on an umbrella group of student councils linked to violent protests this week.

A student collapsed after being hit in the face by a police teargas canister and was rushed to a nearby hospital, while another protester was seen lying unconscious on the ground, an AFP photographer on the scene said.

With helicopters spraying teargas and fluorescent liquid to mark protesters for later arrest, some 12,000 police encircled and launched raids on Yonsei University in western Seoul.

Starved and exhausted, about 1,500 students fought back fiercely.

Wearing handkerchieves and medical masks to fend off the teargas, the students brandished metal pipes, hurled firebombs and rocks and set fire to barricades and retreated inside an engineering college building.

Students threatened to blow up oxygen gas tubes inside the building, where toxic chemicals, gasoline, hydrogen gas tubes, laboratory micro-organisms and radioactive materials are stored.

Police stopped short of moving into the college as a hail of projectiles showered down from the rooftop.

Some students unfurled a banner reading: "Leave us alone. We want to go home" while others put up a poster at the window of the building, reading: "Mother, I'm hungry."

Clashes showed signs of subsiding overnight as weary police relaxed their ring around the university, letting hundreds of students leave the campus by scaling walls.

But the police contingent later tightened its siege of the university, where violence has raged for the past six days.

Clashes first erupted Monday after police sealed off Yonsei University to foil annual rallies by leftist students calling for an early reunification with Communist North Korea.

Investigators said they were investigating the Federation of Student Councils or Hanchongryon, accused of leading the protests.

"Pro-enemy rampages by Hanchongryon members have gone beyond limits and reached the stage where they threaten public security," senior prosecutor Choi Byung-Guk said at a press conference.

"The government will hunt down, arrest all key members and neutralise Hanchongryon," he said.

Since Monday, police have detained more than 1,500 students during protests at the campus and in the streets of Seoul, including some 200 Saturday alone, police figures showed.

Of the detained students, police have formally charged 27 in connection with the incidents, released around 400 and continued questioning some 1,100 others at police stations across the city.

More than 600 policemen and hundreds of students have been injured, including one who was in danger of losing an eye after being hit by a stone Friday.

Meanwhile a spokesman said South Korean police raided campuses in cities across the country Saturday to search offices of the radical student group.

Thousands of riot police combed Hanchongryon branch offices on six campuses, the spokesman said, seizing seven truckloads of leftist leaflets, petrol bombs, iron pipes and other items used during anti-government protests.

"There were violent clashes between protesting students and police on some campuses," he said. "Police held about a dozen students during the search operations."

The raids came just hours after the government vowed to crack down on Hanchongryon, describing its leaders as Communist sympathisers "engaged in activities benefiting the enemy."

Police said Hanchongryon had sent nine students to North Korea, and exchanged facsimile messages with North Koreans on 24 occasions since it was formed in 1993.

Any unauthorised contact with North Koreans is banned in South Korea, still technically at war with the North since the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended with a truce pact.

Dole and Kemp start cross-country tour

DENVER, Col. (R) — Joking, predicting victory and promising tax cuts, a confident and upbeat Bob Dole began the hardest 81 days of his political life Friday after winning the Republican presidential nomination.

Sen. Dole was greeted with cheers, soul music and demands for autographs by a crowd of nearly 1,000 when he arrived here for a rally after a triumphant departure from San Diego with running mate Jack Kemp for a tour that will take them to the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, Pittsburgh and Buffalo, N.Y., where Mr. Kemp played football and discovered politics.

The 73-year-old former senate majority leader, who has dreamed of the presidency since speaking at his first Republican convention in 1964, seemed so upbeat that he even danced on the stage at his Denver rally as a band struck up "I'm A Dole Man," the campaign's unofficial anthem to the tune of Soul Man.

He immediately launched into his key themes of the campaign — promising 15 per cent tax cuts over three years while balancing the budget at the same time.

When he told the crowd that President (Bill) Clinton introduced the biggest tax increase "in the history of the world," the crowd began chanting "bye, bye Bill." And when an inquisitive Dole suddenly decided to ask, "and where should he go?" some in the crowd shouted "jail."

Sen. Dole cracked jokes at every stop of the day, telling a farewell rally in San Diego that he saw his optometrist in the convention audience when he delivered his acceptance speech Thursday night.

"They say I don't have any vision. Right there in the front row, I looked down and saw my optometrist, a man of vision, 20/20." He also joked that this was not going to be a divisive campaign because "Jack Kemp and I get along fine."

In between the humour were serious political statements, including promises to keep racism out of the campaign and to make the Republican Party as inclusive a party as ever existed.

Asked about naming a shadow cabinet, Sen. Dole said a decision "was not on the radar screen" and that he had not thought about whether he would name retired Gen. Colin Powell as secretary of state if elected president.

Sen. Dole told his San Diego rally, "I would not propose a tax cut and I would not propose the economic package had I not been certain we could achieve it without hurting social security, without hurting Medicare."

Echoing the notes of party harmony and patriotic fervour that pervaded at the Republican convention,

Clinton, in radio talk, lambastes Dole's tax plan

JACKSON, Wyoming (R) — President Bill Clinton lashed out Saturday at Republican candidate Bob Dole's tax cut proposals, saying they would cause either severe cuts in social programmes or massive budget deficits.

Without once mentioning Sen. Dole by name, Mr. Clinton used his weekly radio broadcast to home in on the Republican presidential nominee's plan to cut individual income taxes by 15 per cent and delivered his harshest criticism to date of his opponent.

In a series of staccato comparisons, the president contrasted his proposals for a string of targeted tax cuts, designed particularly to support higher education, with Sen. Dole's across-the-board reductions.

"My tax cut is limited in size it's worth \$110 billion," Mr. Clinton said in the address, which was recorded during his vacation in Wyoming. "Theirs is five times as much — \$550 billion."

"We can afford ours. We can't afford theirs."

Mr. Clinton also argued that his proposals, which include a \$1,500 tax credit for the first two years of college, a \$10,000 tax deduction for college costs and a \$500-per-child tax credit for child care, were paid for within an overall balanced budget plan.

"Our opponents haven't said how they'll pay for their tax cut yet. If they don't pay for it, their plan would balloon the deficit," he said, arguing this would raise interest rates and slow the economy.

"On the other hand, if our opponents do pay for these massive tax cuts, that would mean even bigger cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment than they have already proposed," he added.

Mr. Clinton, whose lead over Sen. Dole has narrowed following this week's Republican convention, appeared in the speech to be taking a newly aggressive stance toward the Republican nominee.

Sen. Dole earlier this month unveiled his ambitious economic plan to spur growth and boost his uphill campaign against Mr. Clinton through big tax cuts and a balanced budget.

Economists have criticised the programme for depending on faster economic growth to help eliminate the budget deficit and for failing to spell out the spending cuts they believe will be necessary for the plan to work.

According to Sen. Dole's projections, faster growth and reduced tax avoidance would help boost government revenues by \$147 billion over six years, paying for more than 25 per cent of the scheduled \$548 billion in tax cuts.

Stanford University Professor John Taylor, the author of Sen. Dole's plan, maintained this week that the economics behind the proposal was sound and the estimate of the extra revenue generated conservative.

He also argued that the plan aimed to improve the way the economy worked, so it had the potential to grow faster without inflation.

"If there is an increase in potential growth and they (the Federal Reserve) are convinced of that, they won't raise rates," Prof. Taylor said.

Meanwhile, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's press secretary said Friday Mrs. Clinton will address the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, most likely in prime time.

"She will speak at the convention ... and she's going to be very active throughout the campaign" to reelect her husband, Neel Lattimore said.

In a telephone interview from Washington, Mr. Lattimore said the exact time and day had not been set, but that he expected Mrs. Clinton to address the delegates and a nationwide television audience from a podium.

Democrats were set to gather in Chicago on Aug. 26-29 to formally nominate Mr. Clinton for a second term.

600 missing in Vietnam after storm hits fishing fleet

HANOI (AFP) — At least 600 people were missing after a whirlwind slammed into a fleet of fishing boats off the northern coast of Vietnam in what could become one of the worst disasters to hit the country in years.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Nguyen Cong Tan, who has visited the scene, said at least 614 people were missing after the sudden storm hit a fleet of fishing vessels off Thanh Hoa province late Wednesday.

Local officials put the number of missing at just over 700 people and said that 93 vessels were unaccounted for. Only 19 bodies had been recovered from the wreckage of around 30 boats, the officials said.

"Human and material losses are extremely high," Mr. Tan told local journalists. He said it was impossible to give an exact toll as local authorities did not know how many fishing boats were out.

Local officials said authorities feared that most of those missing were dead. Earlier reports on the official Vietnam News Agency had put the toll at 125 dead and more than 100 missing among the fleet, which was fishing for cuttlefish 15 kilometres offshore.

"It's the worst loss of life we have had in a disaster in this province in 60 years," the official said. The death toll could be the worst since 1989 when typhoon Cecilie killed 740 people.

Flooding also swept across Thanh Hoa province, 100 kilometres south of Hanoi, inundating around 60,000 hectares (148,000 acres) of rice fields and causing damage estimated at \$20 million.

Total flooding in the Red River Delta area had covered 180,000 hectares and damaged more than 2,000 buildings.

Floods in Thanh Hoa have disrupted traffic after a dyke along the Bui River burst, inundating several villages with up to a metre of water. No casualties were reported.

Some 1,500 army volunteers were deployed to rescue villagers, many of whom were clinging to rooftops or trees waiting for boats to pick them up.

The provincial disaster office said the floods were the worst to hit the province in at least a decade and had affected at least 15,000 people.

Northern Vietnam is frequently afflicted by flooding during the monsoon season when storms come in from the South China Sea. Low lying areas of the Red River Delta are often particularly hard hit.

Nearly 70 people died when typhoon Frankie hit the area late last month. Losses were put at several hundred million dollars from the flooding that followed the storm.

Provincial officials were strongly criticised in the press for failing to warn residents of the approaching storm and for not having prepared emergency procedures.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet issued a warning of possible serious flooding in the Mekong Delta in the south of the country after heavy rains from typhoon Frankie in the upper reaches of the river.

Mr. Kiet ordered local government chiefs to step up flood prevention measures as waters in branches of the Mekong are markedly higher than their normal seasonal levels.

Rescue workers were on stand-by and people were being encouraged to move to higher ground in the delta, where flooding last year killed at least 400 people.

Ranariddh: Cambodian MPs must rule on Ieng Sary

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian Co-Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Saturday it was up to parliament and not the government to decide whether to allow Khmer Rouge breakaway leader Ieng Sary back into the national fold.

"The prime minister cannot take the decision alone. The National Assembly must decide," he said in a reference to second Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has said Ieng Sary must be protected and his past misdeeds put aside.

"I personally think it's the most crucial issue. I believe the National Assembly must take a decision and I will abide according to the decision," he said.

He added that an amnesty was up to King Norodom Sihanouk.

Prince Ranariddh, speaking at the end of a human rights seminar, also questioned Ieng Sary's sincerity and doubted that rival Khmer Rouge factions "are going to fight each other."

"I really doubt they are split among themselves," he said.

His remarks were the strongest indication yet of fundamental differences between the two premiers over how to handle what political analysts say is the most serious rift in the Maoist Khmer Rouge since the end of its brutal 1975-79 rule.

Mr. Hun Sen said Thursday that Ieng Sary, one of a handful of guerrilla leaders blamed for the excesses of the Khmer Rouge's killing fields rule, must be given credit for breaking away from headline leaders with thousands of guerrillas.

The Khmer Rouge has been fighting Cambodia's coalition government since rejecting U.N.-run elections in 1993 but earlier this month the group split, with dissidents loyal to Mr. Ieng Sary negotiating peace with the coalition government.

Mr. Ieng Sary and his two leading commanders along the northwest border with Thailand, Sok Peap and Mit Chien, issued statements Thursday saying they wanted national reconciliation, peace and a liberal democracy under King Sihanouk.

The former foreign minister and deputy premier, who was sentenced to death in absentia along with Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot for his role in the death of more than a million Cambodians, also urged people to stop thinking about the past.

The prince believed Mr. Ieng Sary, whom he said was "quite sick," was now in Thailand and indicated he might be in Bangkok while noting that Co-Defence Minister Tea Banh had left for the Thai capital Friday "in a very urgent manner."

"If they want to discuss and negotiate, we have to do it properly," he said, stressing the importance of the constitution and the fact that none of the Khmer Rouge officials were elected representatives.

"We should not forget the National Assembly has adopted a law to outlaw the Khmer Rouge, therefore we must start from this point," he said in reference to legislation adopted in July 1994 after a series of negotiations failed to bring peace.

Mr. Hun Sen has said the dissident guerrillas could keep their property and retain their positions.

Woman caged by
mother for 3 years

Andrew Fergie
and a holiday
home

1
dico

DESIGN A LOGO FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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CONGRATULATE

His Excellency the President, Government
and People of the Republic of Indonesia
on the Occasion of the 51st Anniversary of
the Proclamation of Independence of the
Republic of Indonesia, sincerely wishing
them all more happiness, peace, prosperity
and success.

Jordan Times

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Lessons of history

THERE ARE many similarities between the riots that shocked the Kingdom in 1989 and those that took place in the past two days, and there is only one difference. Both occurred in the towns and villages of the south, a region that is less densely populated than other parts of the Kingdom, and where income is thought to be less than the national average. Both riots followed hikes in prices of commodities, oil in 1989 and bread and fodder in 1996. What is more striking among the similarities between the two unfortunate incidents is that in both cases almost the same institutions, mainly state-owned entities, were attacked and destroyed, burnt or looted. The state-owned Housing Bank, for example, was in both cases a prime target. Government buildings and cars were too targeted.

The 1989 riots were blamed on Islamists and this week's disturbances were implicitly linked to leftist group. But the fact that rioters in both occasions vented their anger on state property should not be dismissed or ignored.

It is no fault of the people that the state has in the past decade presented itself as father and mother to every Jordanian, providing jobs, subsidies, customs-free goods, almost-free fodder, free water for agriculture and so on. These were all decisions taken by the successive governments to appease the population, leading to many imbalances either in the social or production patterns of pre-state Jordan. Isn't it natural then that every time the government tries to correct one of its own mistakes, abruptly and clumsily at that, the people would protest?

There is no denial, of course, that the imbalances created by the successive governments were introduced in the best of intentions, recalling that governments had always thought and still think they can manage people's lives better than the people themselves.

We agree with the government that the drastic decision it had to take by raising commodity prices was dictated by the higher interest of the country and its people. We also believe the government when it says that the previous administrations did not shoulder their responsibilities and start lifting the subsidies. For sure, successive administrations could have, since 1989, introduced a gradual easing of the subsidy. Had they done so, we would not have been where we are today.

While the present government deserves to be praised for its boldness in making the decision it thinks is in the best interest of the country, the consequences of its decision should not be blamed on people.

What we should be doing then is to draw the right lessons from 1989 and 1996 with the aim of not repeating mistakes. What happened during the past two days, painful as it was, should not frighten nor dishearten us. It should not deviate us from our path of political and economic reform. The great nations of today have faced harsher circumstances but they endured. We shall also endure and triumph.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i warned the United States against waging an adventurous war against Iran which it accuses of encouraging acts of terrorism. The Americans who destroyed Iraq and who are continually providing the Zionist state with the means to subdue the Arab countries and perpetuate the occupation of Arab lands seem to be preparing for a strike against Iranian military and economic positions in the wake of a spate of bombings in the Middle East and the United States, said Samir Qatani. He warned that any strike on Iran is bound to trigger an all-out religious revolution in this region against everything that is Western or American. The writer said that the Arab and Muslim peoples in this region are frustrated largely by the continued lack of a just peace, the continued occupation of the Palestinian lands, America's continued support for Israel's aggression and as well as the poverty, unemployment and other economic ills plaguing their countries. The Arab and Muslim peoples of this region, he added, are no doubt psychologically mobilised against the United States and its continued humiliation of the Arab and Islamic nations.

ISRAEL'S PRIME minister who visited Amman, Cairo and Washington can deceive the Arab and American leaders with his claim that he is committed to implementing the Oslo agreement but he certainly cannot deceive the Palestinians, said a writer for Al Dustour. Only the Palestinians cannot be cheated by Israel because it is they who suffer from the siege, Israel's Judaisation and settlement programmes and the seizure of Arab-owned lands, said Hamadeh Faraaneh. The writer said that the Palestinians realise that Netanyahu employs double standards and double-faced tactics in dealing with the Arab countries and the world at large and the Palestinians. Netanyahu's objective is to escape any pressure on Israel for implementing the Oslo deals and complying with the U.N. resolutions that call for a termination of occupation of Arab lands, said the writer. He said that the Arab countries should back the Palestinian people materially, morally and economically because it is only the Palestinians who can confront and foil Israel's conspiracies against the Arab Nation.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Guest workers send away \$420 million

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THERE IS no doubt in our mind that the Jordanian economy needs guest workers, especially from Egypt, to help at least in two critical sectors, namely construction and agriculture. Both sectors may come to a sudden standstill had it not been for the guest workers, and the Egyptian labourers in particular.

At the same time, it is equally true that the present volume of guest workers in Jordan far exceeded the real needs of the economy, because our labour market is wide-open, with almost no controls whatsoever on incoming and outgoing non-Jordanian labourers. The Jordanian labour market has been overwhelmed by the overflow of non-Jordanians coming to seek jobs in the Kingdom at any price, which hurt the Jordanian labourers, increased unemployment and suppressed wages to an unacceptable low level.

There must be a middle road to keep the balance. It seems that the Ministry of Labour is about to come up with some measures to deal with this situation, in order to protect the Jordanian labourers from unfair competition on one hand, and to activate the principle of priorities in getting the limited jobs available in the market, on the other hand.

Until then, we find it worthwhile to go through a simple exercise to determine the real cost of guest workers from

a balance of payments stand point, if not as a motivation to act, then at least for the sake of correct information, as decision-making and economic options must be based on accurate facts and figures, properly interpreted and calculated.

At the outset, we dismiss, out of hand, the extremely understated figures depicted by the published balance of payments as compiled by the authorities or the experts of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The official balance of payments for 1995 claims that the outgoing remittances of the non-Jordanian workers were in the order of \$103 million. We claim that the real figure is at least four times higher. We, of course, understand that challenging the IMF figures is not to be made or taken lightly, and therefore we revert to figures and accurate calculations.

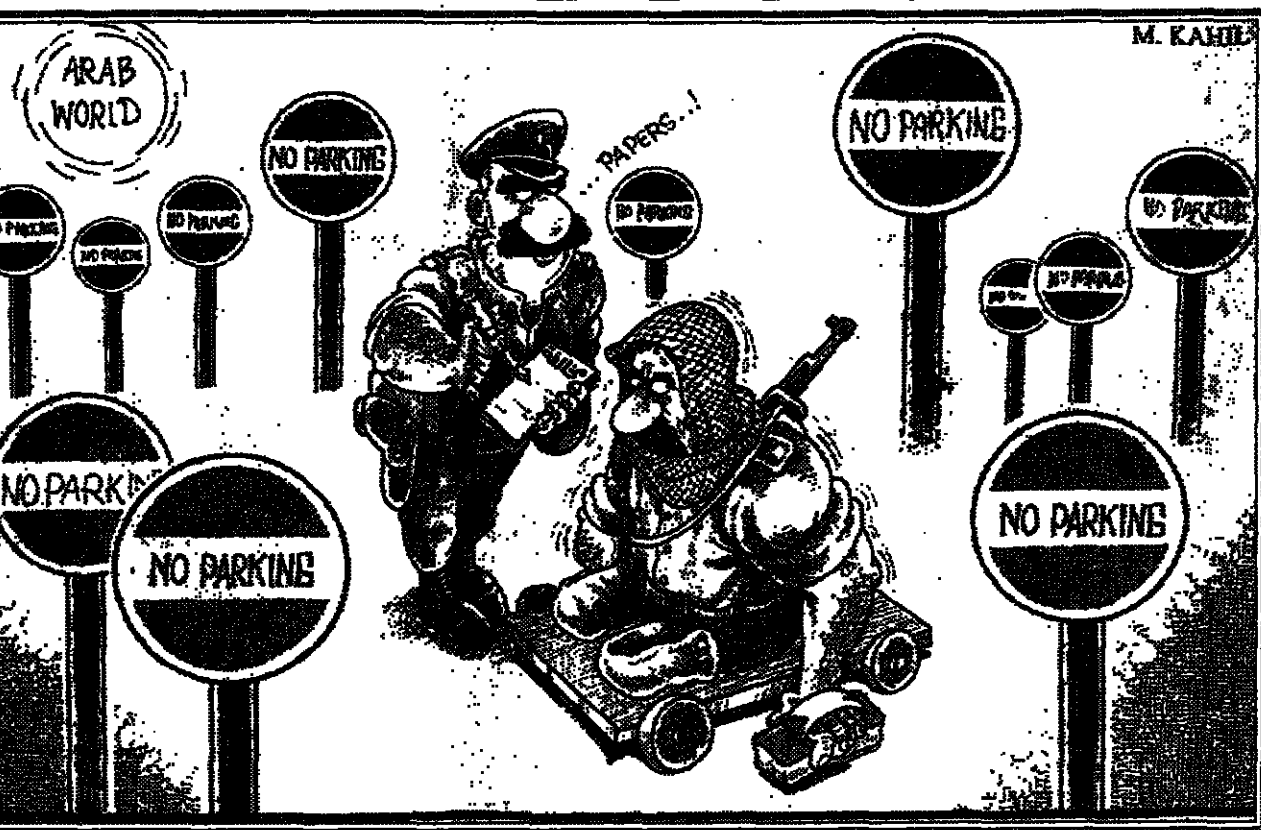
Only the Almighty knows what are the exact numbers of guest workers in Jordan. Simply there are no records. However, the minister of labour recently estimated non-Jordanians working in Jordan to be in the tune of 350,000. Each one would save and pay back to his family abroad a minimum of \$100 per month, and sometimes much more, but we want to be on the conservative side. The above two figures suggest that workers' remittances must exceed \$420 million a year.

The above staggering amount does not include what the

350,000 persons consume of imported food and other materials reflected in the imports bill, which means that the overall cost in foreign exchange is much more, and may double the above figure. In this respect we can conclude that the cost to the country of non-Jordanians working in Jordan reached a level sufficient to offset the incoming remittances from our Jordanian expatriates working in the Gulf states and elsewhere. Such remittances used to be a major source in financing part of ever growing trade deficit.

Let there be no mistake. The guest workers deserve our respect and gratitude, especially our Arab brethren. They have participated in building the Jordanian economy and carried out the most difficult of jobs at relatively low wages. On the other hand, we in Jordan support the policy of open borders for inter-Arab labour movements.

We can't forget our own expatriates working in the Gulf states. We admit our continued nagging on our Gulf friends to employ more of our personnel. This is a two-way policy. However, all Gulf states, without exception, have full control over their own labour market. No Arab worker can enter a Gulf state until he first obtains a work contract, a local guarantor, and an entry visa for work. I wonder why should not we in Jordan regulate our own labour market and bring it back under control.



The state of Palestine already exists

By John V. Whitbeck

THERE IS a strange, other-worldly quality of the current war of words over Palestinian statehood. In response to Benjamin Netanyahu's insistence that he will never agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state, Yasser Arafat has responded that a state "is the desire of the Palestinian people, and nobody can stop it", while President Mubarak has stated that "the Palestinians are going to establish a Palestinian state sooner or later". In fact, whether or not Netanyahu agrees to it, and whether or not Arafat and his supporters fully realise it, the state of Palestine already exists, and Palestinian statehood is not even an issue in the "permanent status" negotiations which began last month and must come to an agreement not later than May 1999.

According to the Declaration of Principles signed on the White House lawn in September 1993, the issues to be covered during permanent status negotiations are: "Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, borders, relations with other neighbours and other issues of common interest". Palestinian statehood is not mentioned, but the references to "borders" and "other neighbours" would make no sense except in the context of an agreement between states. Israel's eventual formal acceptance of Palestinian statehood is clearly implicit in the terms of the Declaration of Principles, but, legally, Israel's prior acceptance is not an essential condition for the state of Palestine to exist.

Criteria for statehood

While extending diplomatic recognition to foreign states lies within the discretion of each sovereign state, there are, as a matter of international law, four customary criteria for sovereign statehood: (1) defined territory over which sovereignty is not seriously contested by any other state; (2) a permanent

population; (3) the ability and willingness of the state to discharge international and conventional obligations; and (4) effective control over the state's territory and population. Judged by these customary criteria, the state of Palestine is on at least as firm a legal footing as the state of Israel.

While Israel has never defined its ultimate borders, an act which would necessarily place limits on them, the state of Palestine has effectively done so. They encompass only that portion of historical Palestine occupied by Israel during the 1967 war. Sovereignty over expanded East Jerusalem is explicitly contested, even though, after nearly three decades, none of the world's other 192 sovereign states has recognised Israel's claim to sovereignty. However, the sovereignty of the state of Palestine over the Gaza Strip and the rest of the West Bank is uncontested.

Israel has never dared even to purport to annex these territories, recognising that doing so would raise awkward questions about the rights (or lack of them) of those who live there. Jordan renounced all claims to the West Bank in July 1988, and, on June 5, King Hussein reaffirmed that "we will never, under any condition, be a substitute for" the Palestinians. While Egypt administered the Gaza Strip for 19 years, it never asserted sovereignty over it. Since November 1988, when Palestinian statehood was formally proclaimed, the only state asserting sovereignty over those portions of historic Palestine which Israel conquered in 1967 (apart from expanded East Jerusalem) has been the state of Palestine, a state recognised as such by 124 other states encompassing the vast majority of the world.

The permanence of Palestine's population is not in question. The state's ability and willingness to discharge international and conventional obligations has been demonstrated by its establishment of diplomatic relations with a majority of the world's sovereign states and by its efforts to obtain

membership in international organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNESCO, even if those efforts have been blocked by the United States.

The weak link

The weak link in Palestine's claim to already exist as a state was, until recently, the fourth criterion, "effective control". When the state was proclaimed, its entire territory was under the military occupation of another sovereign state. (For seven months, Palestine and Kuwait had that much in common). Yet a Palestinian executive and legislature, democratically elected with the enthusiastic approval of the international community, now exercise "effective control" over a significant portion of Palestinian territory in which the great majority of the state's population lives. It can no longer be seriously argued that Palestine's claim to exist falls at the fourth and final hurdle.

Accordingly, as a matter of customary international law, if not yet of general public consciousness, the status of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 is today clear and (with the exception of expanded East Jerusalem) uncontested. The state of Palestine is sovereign, the state of Israel remains the occupying power in a portion of Palestinian territory and U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, explicitly, premised on "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war" and explicitly cited as the basis of the future permanent status settlement in all the Israeli-Palestinian accords, is the internationally accepted basis for terminating the occupation.

Some Israelis argue and some Palestinians fear that the PLO's signature on its accords with Israel constitutes, at least implicitly, an acquiescence in the occupation and a renunciation of Palestine's 1988 declaration of independence. However, the interim agreements signed in Cairo in May 1994 and in Washington in September 1995 both contain

the following significant provision: "Neither party shall be deemed, by virtue of having entered into this agreement, to have renounced or waived any of its existing rights, claims or positions. This provision was inserted at Palestinian insistence during the final stages of the Cairo negotiations specifically to protect Palestine against such an interpretation."

Out of deference to Israeli sensibilities, Yasser Arafat has in recent years kept the third of his three presidential "hats", that of president of the State of Palestine, largely on a back shelf. There is every reason to believe that he will now wear it more prominently. If the U.S. and other Western countries, which already welcome Arafat with the honours and protocol due a head of state, are seriously interested in actually achieving peace in the Middle East, as opposed to simply ensuring that an interminable and increasingly euphemistic "peace process" continues, there could be no more constructive act than adding their names to the list of countries which recognise diplomatically the state of Palestine.

By doing so, they would do Israel's favour of making absolutely clear that whether or not "peace" will include an independent Palestinian state is a non-issue and that the challenge for all who are seriously interested in peace is to find a way to structure the Palestinian state and its relationship with Israel which, while meeting at least the minimum requirements of the Palestinians, still permits a majority of Israelis to perceive such a state, as so structured, as enhancing their security and the quality of their lives, so that they can recognise that it is in their own self-interest to accept Palestine's right to exist in peaceful coexistence with Israel. Peace is unimaginable on any other basis.

John Whitbeck is an international lawyer in Paris. This article is reprinted from the Middle East International.

LETTERS

Vandalism never pays

To the Editor:

SINCE THE introduction of democracy in Jordan, His Majesty the King was always keen and determined to allow an ample space for the expression of views.

Sharing responsibility and exchanging views is something we all opt for and like to adopt and encourage. Criticising and protesting a government action is a legitimate necessity when situations dictate so, but only under one condition, that is to maintain and follow peaceful and civilised means.

When it comes to burning, looting and destroying public and private property and attacking our law enforcement people, then those doing so will certainly defeat their cause and harm the case they are trying to defend.

It goes without saying that our people have always shown a sound national and a rational sense, and that they deserve a respectful quality of life free from the atrocities of the previous notorious period of martial law, where equal rights in litigation, employment and personnel affairs were in question. Therefore, we are confident and positive the events of Friday will be left behind and no-one loyal to his country and its people has any interest in retreating to that period or giving cause for it. But a good lesson is still to be continuously learned and kept in our minds that real democracy is the best solution and thus should deeply be rooted in our system and in our day-to-day life. Democratic dialogue through political parties and social and educational institutions will truly be a useful remedy to most of the hardships confronting us.

Let us hope for the better, learn the lesson and forget the pains of the past.

Maher Waked
Amman

Road accidents — urgent action needed

To the Editor:

IT COMES now about every six months or so with a fair amount of predictability: "The Public Security Department (PSD) stresses need for urgent action to deal with traffic accidents" (Jordan Times — August 15). We, the drivers, wait to see what this "urgent action" may be, and see no change in the driving habits of the people on the roads. Yes, there may be a 3-day flurry of checking seat-belts or some other equally bland gesture, but that soon goes with the wind. The policemen out there seem to be quite active in giving parking tickets (whether the area has signs or not) and they cannot be faulted in their zeal for setting up road checks, radar, etc. At the Vehicle Registration Department they can be faultless (depending on their mood) in examining the braking capability of your automobile, whether you have a functioning fire extinguisher, turn signals and the rest. These things are all good, I suppose. It appears to me, however, that the PSD is "straining at gnats and swallowing camels" and is not willing to see or admit what is blatantly in front of all our faces.

Apparently, the need to ticket people for parking illegally is much greater than solving the urgent problem of reckless driving and rude driving. It was no surprise to see on page 3 of the Jordan Times a picture of a smashed minibus. I call these things "rockets on wheels." Everybody knows how these people drive, and there seems to be no change in their habits. Thus, we are led to conclude that the PSD simply is not addressing the problem, no matter how many conferences are held and how many dramatic statements are made.

Having lived in Jordan for 22 years now, I have yet to see a police car out in the traffic pull any car over for reckless driving or speeding — and this is the core of the problem — not whether my fire extinguisher is topped out, or whether my paint job is up to snuff. I have seen police cars looting through traffic and drivers zipping in and out, speeding recklessly, and the police apparently preoccupied with whatever other crucial issue is at hand.

My gut feeling is that the authorities here simply have no idea of what reckless driving is. And since they are ignorant of this issue, you can't really blame the drivers for driving like maniacs. My suggestion (maybe hard on the pride) is to bring some traffic policemen in from the West, who know what reckless driving is, and are used to getting out there in the traffic and taking some initiative. Let them get in the patrol cars and tell our policemen where to go and what to do. Of course, this would be a great shock to the whole system here — police and drivers alike, but we would finally be getting to the core of the problem.

Bob Robertson
Amman

King sa
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Karak

Cabinet r

Islamists

... Sunday, August 13, 1996
By Dr. Fahed Fakhri
20 million

King says either there is a state or there are outlaws who want to undermine the country

(Continued from page 1)

to the Arab as well as the whole world as a land of peace and stability and the model with which we pride ourselves. May God help you to shoulder your responsibilities until we regain calm and stability to this dear part of our country. I sacrifice myself for you.

"We will not permit anything to harm your rights and interests. We hope the conditions will improve consistently. If we want to build for ourselves and the future generations the long-sought and bright future, we should show steadfastness and foster solidarity among ourselves to foil all wicked and malicious attempts.

"This country will remain strong in the face of all storms and hard in the face of all evil powers. May this

dear country remain a typical model to the Arab World.

"Jordan is the wall supporting Palestine and its people in their pursuit to regain their rights on their national soil. Jordan occupies a vital position within the Arab Nation. Our Arab relations are back to normal and we wish they will improve still further. We want our people to master the art of dialogue.

"We hope that our people can differentiate between what is good and what is bad. Many of those who took part in Friday's incidents are part of us. Before we take any step, we should think many times in order not to regret any move. At any case, there are very few people in this country who have never believed in this homeland, Jordan, as a reality and as a proud Arab fortress, steadfast in the

face of storms and perils, nor in its achievements.

"We are at a critical stage during which we should use our minds to judge and distinguish between the evil and the good and to build this country for ourselves and for the coming generations. We should look for the best solution to better serve our people. I hope, God willing, to do all my best for you, particularly you, the Armed Forces who have the honour of raising the dear banner of the Armed Forces high over your heads, wherever you are.

The King was accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ali, Prince Hamzah and Prince Hashem, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai.

By Gwynne Dyer

"THE CLIMATE is good for solar system exploration," said Glenn Carle, chief of the solar system exploration branch at the NASA-Ames Research Centre in California. And then, slipping into the Columbus-and-Queen Isabella analogy that comes easily to people working in space exploration, he added: "It seems the queen has given us new ships."

Trouble is, he said it back in 1988, and he was only talking about unmanned planetary probes, not real space-ships. The unmanned probes sent out by NASA (the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration) have produced some spectacular fly-by photographs of our neighbouring planets since then, but there has been nothing by way of deep-space exploration by actual human beings since the Apollo moon programme was shut down, three trips short of the number originally planned, in 1972.

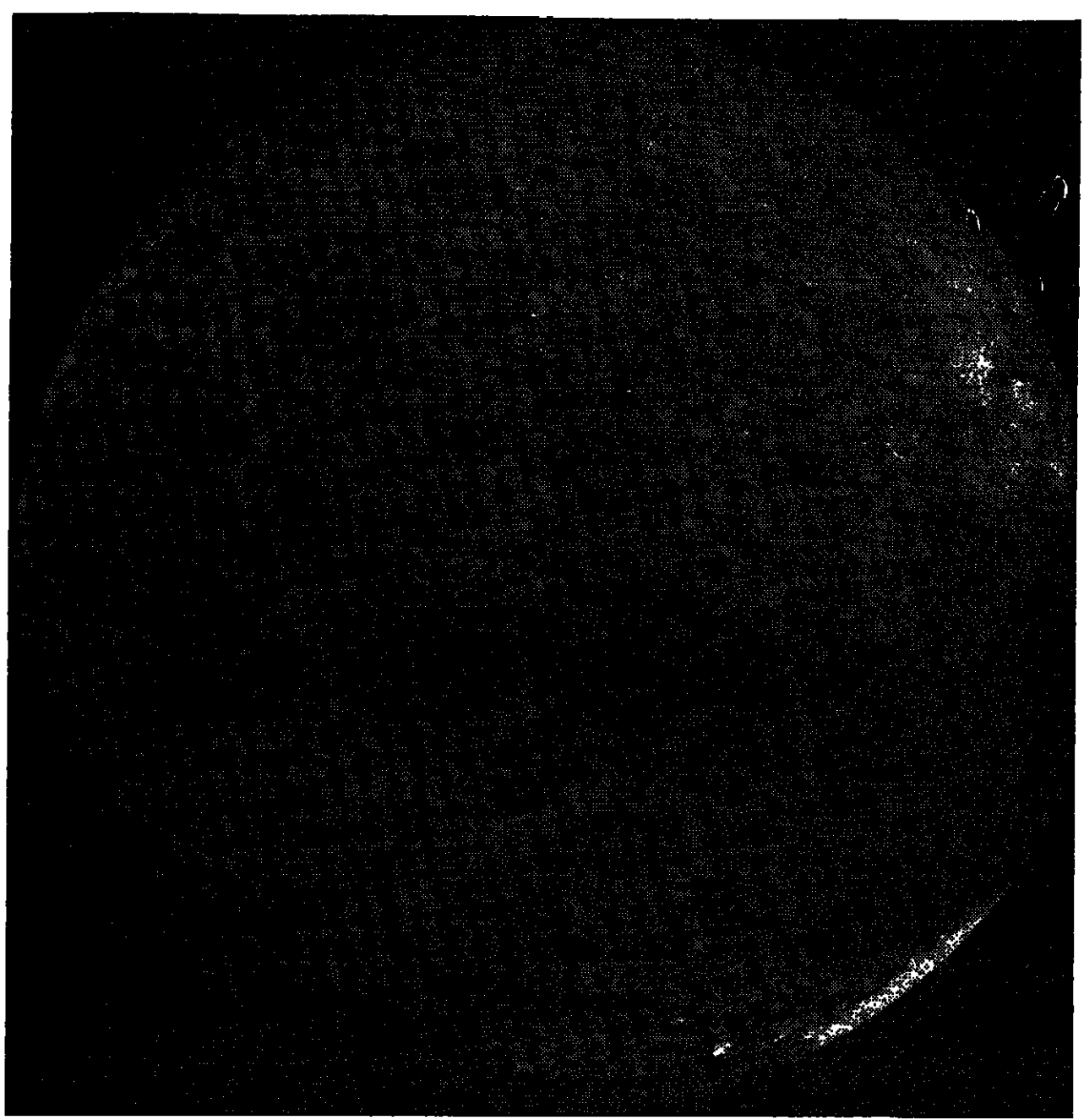
So will the recent announcement that primitive life once existed on Mars by a team of nine NASA-backed scientists finally make the queen give them some real ships to go to Mars in? And is that why NASA gave the announcement such huge publicity?

Second question first: of course it is. NASA's business is space exploration, and if it comes across some scientific hypothesis that it believes will persuade the public to pay for the ships, it will back it hard. Nothing illegitimate there, and the scientists involved in the study are all people of high reputation who would not shade their conclusions to suit their sponsor.

More interesting, perhaps, is how the space agency, tripped over this particular strategy for drumming up support. After all, the two unmanned Viking spacecraft that landed on Mars in 1976 carried experimental packages to search for signs of microbial life in the Martian soil — and the results were negative.

But ten years later, in 1986, a NASA review conference on the Viking experiments (which got little publicity at the time) was told that the 1976 experiments had very probably found Martian micro-organisms in the soil samples tested by the robot mini-labs.

One of the tests, which involved giving the soil nutrients containing a radioactive isotope that would show up in any gases given off by micro-organisms that took up the nutrients, actually gave a



Mars — a new world to be discovered

positive result. But the other experiment, which searched for organic debris in the Martian soil, was negative. So the original conclusion was that there was probably not life on Mars.

In 1979, however, Dr. K. Bieman demonstrated that soil from the Antarctic (which does contain micro-organisms) produces almost identical results to those of the second, negative test. In the extreme conditions of the Antarctic (or of Mars) life ticks over so slowly that there is little by way of organic debris in the soil.

In 1981, Dr. G.V. Levin and Dr. P. A. Straat announced that all their efforts to reproduce the positive results of the nutrient experiment using inorganic materials had failed: To get the results witnessed on Mars, micro-organisms had to be present in the soil. And at the 1986 review conference Levin and Straat added that photographs of a Martian rock taken some years apart by one of the Viking lander cameras showed changing patterns of

greenish patches strongly reminiscent of lichen on earthy rocks.

So NASA had a good case for life on Mars — and by the mid-80s cultural shifts and rising ecological awareness were producing a public audience much likelier to be interested in the existence of life elsewhere in the universe.

The so-called 'Mars Underground' at the agency, an informal network of people who never accepted the abandonment of NASA's original ambitions for manned interplanetary exploration, went looking for more evidence about extraterrestrial life that would satisfy a doubtful public. It looks like they have found it in the interior of an ancient rock knocked loose from Mars by an asteroid collision 15 million years ago that eventually fell in Antarctica.

So will they get their ships at last? Maybe. Space activity has survived the collapse of its original stimulus, the cold war, and a new U.S. space station and cost-efficient

second-generation space shuttles are due to be ready within five or six years.

That would make a manned Mars expedition much more feasible and affordable — and late 20th-century environmental concerns make any investigation of the early origins and eventual fate of other ecospheres a relatively easy sell. We have lived our whole history with only one example, and Mars could be a whole second example of now an ecosphere evolves.

There are no guarantees in U.S. politics, but for a rough gauge of the fluctuations in political support for space exploration in Washington over time, consider what the hard-headed political survivalists in the White House have said about it.

In 1961, John F. Kennedy was unequivocal: The United States "must commit itself to achieving the goal, before the decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth."

A quarter-century later, in the depths of the Rea-

gan era, Michael Collins, who piloted the Orbiter module on that first Moon-landing flight in 1969, could only play it for laughs: "I think that in today's climate (Kennedy) would have to say, 'I think we ought to dedicate ourselves to the goal of perhaps considering appointing a commission, after due deliberation with the Congress, of investigating the feasibility of certain long-range goals for the space programme, perhaps even including a mission to Mars'."

1996 is a more cautious time than 1961, and more financially strapped, too, but it has recovered from the nadir of the mid-80s. What President Bill Clinton said was, for him, quivering on the brink of unequivocal: "The American space programme will put its full intellectual power and technological prowess behind the search for further evidence of life on Mars."

Is that a promise to actually go there? No. But it's considerably better than what NASA has been used to hearing.

Karak under curfew

(Continued from page 1)

remained at street corners, at times throwing stones at the security forces.

Most of those who took part in the riots were young people who say they will not stop the rioting before the cancellation of the decision to raise the price of bread.

Standing amidst a group of angry youths at one of the city's main streets, a youngster told the Jordan Times that the tough reaction of the government to Friday's riots prompted people to riot again on Saturday.

As his colleagues echoed his words, another said that city residents were angered by the threats that Dr. Ammarin said Mr. Kabariti made to him on Friday.

Even though the government denied that the premier threatened Dr. Ammarin, city residents with rioters in the town of Rabbeh near Karak. Rioters put a girls secondary school in the town of Moab on fire. The fire was still on and expanded

ghost city with rocks blocking the streets and the smell of tyre and tear-gas filling the air.

Some youngsters were still holding stones at the corners of city alleys hours after the curfew was imposed. Others were having tea with soldiers whose armed personnel carriers were positioned on every corner of the city centre.

Two Spanish tourists, who were stranded in the city after arriving in it in the morning also broke the curfew to have coffee with a family. An armoured personnel carrier was stationed at the entrance to the family house.

A group of five German tourists were also stranded in the city where residents say violence could erupt again if their demands are not met despite the tense calm that prevailed in the evening.

Police were still clashing with rioters in the town of Rabbeh near Karak.

Rioters put a girls secondary school in the town of Moab on fire. The fire was still on and expanded

after it reached a lab containing chemicals.

Rioters were throwing stones at the house of the Karak governor in the district of Marja about three kilometres from Karak city.

Rioters later spread to Muta and Al Mazar and shortly after midnight police fired tear-gas against a group of young demonstrators in Muta.

At least one man was taken to hospital suffering from tear-gas inhalation.

Reuters and Agence France Presse meanwhile reported a protest in the Hay Al Tafaileh area of eastern Amman. Reuters said the protesters fired gunshots at police who threw tear-gas to try to disperse them. The incident occurred shortly after midnight, the reports said.

AFP said the protesters burned tyres and plastic in the streets. No other details were available. Reporters who visited the area after the reports came said the situation was calm.

Cabinet reviews situation

(Continued from page 1)

further tampering with the country's security and to ensure the country's stability," the statement added.

Following the session, Minister of Information Marwan Muasher told reporters that the situation had been brought under control and calm prevailed in all regions.

Dr. Muasher said the government had information indicating that "for-

ign circles which mean harm for the country were involved in these incidents."

But, he said, Jordanian people's vigilance and their sense of national belonging have prevented further incidents.

Dr. Muasher said that very few injuries resulted from Saturday's rioting largely due to the self-restraint exercised by the security services.

Noting that only very few arrests were made fol-

lowing the incidents, Dr. Muasher said that the government was deeply satisfied with the general situation prevailing in various parts of the Kingdom.

Asked whether the government intended to take measures against certain Parliament members now that the extraordinary session has been terminated, Dr. Muasher said that the government planned no such action.

Islamists want government to quit

(Continued from page 1)

are civilised methods that can be taken to express our anger. But to go out and damage our own property is not going to solve our problems. On the contrary, there will be more debts and more taxes."

"But we are an opposition group," said Mr. Jaber. "The fact that we do not approve of rioting, as happened in the south, does not mean that we divert from our path and lessen in any way our opposition to the large increase in prices that the government has just decreed."

Hammam Sa'eed, another IAF deputy from Amman's Fifth District, reiterated his front's commitment to oppose the government through peaceful means. But stressed that the riots were a normal reaction to "what the government said and did."

"We warned the govern-

ment on several occasions of the serious implications of its decision (to lift subsidies) but we were given the cold shoulder. The government is the sole responsible party for what happened. Its resignation has become a popular demand," said Deputy Sa'eed, who is considered a hawk in the IAF.

Islamists insisted that while King Hussein mentioned the front by name in his speech on Friday night ruling out its involvement in the riots and praising it for this stand, this does not mean that they can turn a new page now. The government and not any foreign groups is responsible for the riots, they said.

"There is no political party behind the events," said Deputy Jaber. "Mr. Kabariti has provoked the people to a large extent. He has called one of the deputies (Nazih Ammarin from Karak) and insulted him. The government cannot tolerate democracy."

A Royal Decree, issued several hours after riots broke out in the south, ordered the immediate termination of the extraordinary session of the House.

The interruption of the session "shows, beyond doubt, that democracy has not been adequately institutionalised," said IAF Deputy Suleiman Sa'ad (Jerash). "Democracy is not a shirt that can be worn one day and thrown away the next day."

The front says it has two demands: The resignation of the government and the retraction of the decision to lift subsidy on bread. It said the group of 23 opposition deputies were holding regular meetings on how to secure these demands. It is expected to issue a statement today on its stand vis-a-vis the government and the recent events.

IFOR troops to destroy illegal Serb arms depot

SOKOLAC, Bosnia Herzegovina (AFP) — Hundreds of French, Italian and Ukrainian units of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) on Saturday moved in to destroy an unauthorised Serb depot containing 300 tonnes of arms.

An AFP correspondent at the scene said the IFOR troops had taken over just north of Sokolac, some 40 kilometres northeast of Sarajevo, and were taking up positions surrounding hills.

He added that some 200 IFOR vehicles, including tanks, armoured vehicles and trucks, arrived Saturday morning at the site of the weapons dump in a disused school at Margetici, near Sokolac.

In a statement issued in Sarajevo, IFOR confirmed that the massive deployment was in preparation for the destruction of the weapons next week.

Italian troops discovered the undeclared stash, including rockets and 6,000 cases of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, about two

weeks ago, and declared it would be destroyed.

Under the Dayton peace accord signed in December, the former warring parties were obliged to declare arms depots and seek IFOR authorisation for them.

Italian troops said the operation would be the biggest destruction of arms and ammunition by IFOR since it arrived in Bosnia last Dec. 20.

An Italian IFOR commander told the Serb in charge of the weapons dump that IFOR troops would control it on Saturday, then they would take the armaments to a site IFOR had set up a few hundred metres down the road on Sunday, and destroy them on Monday.

He added that a senior Serb general was expected to come to the area to discuss the operation with IFOR.

However the IFOR statement said "the effective destruction of these weapons will take place next week at two pre-selected sites... and should, if all goes to plan, be completed by the end of the week."

Deputies condemn rioting

(Continued from page 1)

affected its standing."

Mr. Masri said the termination of the extraordinary session was inevitable. Otherwise, he said, the House would have been used as a platform to escalate the tension.

Some parliamentarians were sceptical. They said they thought there were other motivations behind the termination of the extraordinary session by a Royal Decree issued late Friday.

"There are signs indicating that the government suspects that certain

deputies had been behind the events," said one deputy, noting that deputies enjoy immunity from arrest/prosecution when the legislature is in session.

Nader Abul Shaar, member of the National Action Front, said: "Even if the session was not terminated its work would have been disrupted because it was boycotted by a group of 23 members."

Mr. Abul Shaar called on all sides to "deal with the situation with wisdom," and stressed that citizens could express their views through legitimate and constitutional means.

The opposition group in the Lower House is reported to be trying to collect the signatures of 41 deputies on a document calling on the government to resign and bear responsibility for the events in the south.

An IAF source expressed the view, however, that the government would not resign soon so as not to encourage further rioting in any similar future development.

The source also said it was highly unlikely that the government would rescind its decision to increase the price of bread.

Upper House denounces violence

(Continued from page 1)

to His Majesty King Hussein and blesses his relentless efforts to further boost Jordan's status and its role at the Arab and international levels.

"The Senate supports the wise measures undertaken by the government for the good of the nation and the people of Jordan and appreciates the role of the

Armed Forces, and the security services which form the shield that ensures the nation's security.

"The Senate expresses appreciation of the vigilant people of Jordan who foiled the sedition and expressed their determination to cling hard to the march of progress and the country's secure and stable future.

"Prompted by its deep faith in the sense of national responsibility, the Senate voices its support for the King's address to the nation and hopes that the events would serve as a true lesson for all and would help in further strengthening the country's stability and security."

Oil giant forced to rethink its economy

RIYADH (AFP) — Oil giant Saudi Arabia is facing tough times ahead in trying to reform its hard-hit economy and pay its creditors, but still offers opportunities for overseas investors.

With no immediate prospect of a hike in the price of crude, the world's number one oil exporter knows that the golden age of the oil boom is over. "Saudi Arabia is going to become a normal country," said a Western banker.

The huge cost of financing the Gulf war has convinced the government of the necessity of setting its house in order, but with negligible economic growth in recent years, much remains to be done.

"Saudi Arabia owes money to a lot of people," including arms dealers, said one financial analyst who estimates those debts amount to several billion dollars.

External debt has largely been brought under control and now stands at around \$100 billion with the repayment in 1995 of the last tranche of a giant \$4.5 billion loan to pay for the Gulf war.

But public debt continues to grow, standing at over 75 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), or \$97 billion.

The government has begun to pay off creditors who had not been paid in many years by issuing special bonds. These bonds "are a way of borrowing from business, but at least this offers them a guarantee," said a European economist. Debts to cereal producers up to the end of 1995 have also been repaid by similar means.

"But arrears continue to build up," as some ministries fail to check if they have sufficient funds before committing themselves to further expenditure, one diplomat here said.

Conscious of its management lapses, the government last year named several technocrats in key economic and financial positions in trade and in the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), in a concerted bid to stamp out waste.

A long-awaited restructuring of the economic information system is finally underway, and in another move towards stability, statistics will now be published more regularly. A case in point is the central bank, which has not published an annual report for three years. "The previous government did nothing for the last 10 years," said a top Saudi official. "It had no idea and probably prayed for a rise in the price of oil like some people pray for rain."

Bankers, citing official estimates, said the Saudi economy was projected to be slower in 1996 than in 1995, when the gross domestic product grew by 4.3 per cent in nominal terms due to an improvement in crude prices.

The state last year introduced a number of reforms to reduce the budget deficit, estimated at \$8 billion for 1996, including better investor incentives, hikes in some service fees and petrol prices, and the sale of state enterprises to the private sector.

The main privatisation targets are the telecommunications industry, electricity distribution and the state airline Saudia.

Analysts cite strong activity in the construction, trade and industry sectors, and say around \$12 billion in private Saudi overseas investment has returned to the kingdom since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

"A lot of capital invested abroad has begun to return," said the top Saudi official. Much of that influx was sparked by investors attracted by the government reforms to repair economic damage caused mainly by weak oil prices. Big Saudi groups are seeking joint venture possibilities, and have so far attracted many overseas investors, notably Germans.

A European economist said there was no shortage of opportunities awaiting these investors, citing the consumer goods sector and everything linked to industrial development as particularly promising, even the mining and development sector.

Israel economy slows down

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israelis have started to measure the cost of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's uncertain peace plans, as once robust economic growth faltered and questions arose about who will pay for expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The government's Statistics Bureau has announced that the growth of the Israeli economy fell sharply during the first half of the year to an annual rate of 3.5 per cent, less than half the 7.1 per cent rate of growth in 1995.

As a result of the slowdown and flagging consumer confidence, imports of consumer goods dropped 10.7 per cent, after rising a strong 10 per cent in 1995 when optimism over the peace process led by the previous Labour government hit its peak.

Imports of other goods and services rose 6.2 per cent, compared to average 11 per cent growth during the five previous years, and overall exports rose only an annualised 1.4 per cent, down from 11 per cent for 1995, it said.

Officials at the finance ministry and private economists attributed the slowdown largely to political uncertainty linked to a wave of suicide bombings by Palestinian Islamic radicals in February and early March, the subsequent military closure of the Palestinian territories and Israel's 17-day war in Lebanon in April.

The election of Mr. Netanyahu and his governing coalition of rightwing and religious parties at the end of May only exacerbated the trend, they said.

"The political uncertainty before the election and the hesitation since are the only explanations for these figures," said economist Jacques Bendelac. "There is no objective reason for us to see the kind of worrisome indicators that have been emerging," he said. "We are not in a recession, the slowdown is purely psychological."

There is a problem of public confidence, illustrated by a mass sell-off on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange which was a clear symptom of concern over the Mideast peace negotiations," he said. After coming to office, Mr. Netanyahu announced a vast privatisation drive he said would sustain the interest of foreign investors who poured \$1.2 billion into local companies last year.

But most of that investment was linked to investor desire to reap the benefits of Israel's peace agreements with the Palestinians and Jordan and the lifting of the Arab boycott against the Jewish state.

Mr. Netanyahu and his political allies are longtime critics of the peace process, and notably the Oslo accords granting limited autonomy to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Since taking office in mid-June, Mr. Netanyahu has repeatedly voiced his support in principle for the peace process, but has repeatedly delayed implementation of key Israeli commitments under Oslo and has yet to announce a resumption of full negotiations with the Palestinians.

Israeli and foreign concerns have grown since Mr. Netanyahu announced in early August that the government was lifting four-year-old restrictions on expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, beginning with the dispatch of 300 mobile homes to serve as classrooms and offices.

Mr. Netanyahu has pledged that taxpayers would not be called upon to finance major new settlement activity. But doubt about his sincerity were fuelled when Israeli radio revealed a secret army report proposing the construction of hundreds of kilometers of new roads in the territories to facilitate travel by settlers and encircle autonomous Palestinian zones. The anti-settlement Peace Now movement estimated the project would cost about \$400 for every Israeli family, at a time when the government has announced deep across-the-board budget cuts.

The United States, which provides Israel with \$3 billion in aid each year, has objected to the new settlement plans.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 18, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Give more thought today to home and practical interests and make better arrangements for the days ahead. This evening can be productive if you are to consult with some knowledgeable person who can provide you with answers.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) This is a good day today to visit with persons who can be of assistance to you on some important new project. Make those long-distance phone calls later this evening when the rates are cheaper and you can reduce your expenses.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a fine day today for planning how to add to the assets you enjoy at this time so that you can have a more prominent position. This evening will be good for you to relax with your loved ones and just have a peaceful time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day today to sit down outside fellow associates and come to a better agreement concerning your career activities and what success you wish to gain. Be money-wise this evening and you can have many guests in.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make a plan today which will help you to gain your personal aims and get a knowledgeable person for some assistance. Know how to communicate better with fellow associates and you will obtain much success.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make a point to see as many friends as possible today and you can have some fun recreational activities which everyone will enjoy. Plan your itinerary early this evening so everything will go well and there won't be any difficulties.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Attend some public meeting on any civic matters and those in your community will respect your desire to make the area of your home more pleasant a place to live. It could be educational and will make you feel better.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go over those ideas you wish to put in operation today and start putting them to work so that you will gain prestige in the eyes of an authority figure. Organise your wardrobe so that you sharp and well-dressed for the coming week.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Show your mate today that you have practical ideas and you can put them into operation which will make you quite successful. You can make them work to gain more security in the days ahead for your loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Many situations rise today which give you a better idea on how you stand in the business world. Improve this evening your relationship with a fellow associate and you can gain much prestige by following his or her advice.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study how to become more efficient at your daily routines today and you can achieve much success if you are notice by some bigwig. Be sure to handle the important things in your life without fail or you can notice a downward turn.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Plan the evening today so that it can be full of romance and gain much affection with your mate and you can both have a wonderful time together. Be careful driving on the highway and you will avoid getting into any accidents.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz.

Arabs switch to downstream projects as oil, gas reserves stabilise

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states are switching to downstream projects at the expense of oil exploration as their oil and gas reserves have remained almost unchanged in the past few years.

According to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), only 920 million barrels were added in 1995 to the Arab crude reserves while around 226 billion cubic metres of natural gas were found.

The new discoveries slightly boosted the total proven Arab oil reserves to 645.32 billion barrels and those of gas to 32.38 trillion cubic metres (1,079 trillion cubic feet), the Kuwaiti-based OAPEC said in its annual report.

A breakdown showed Saudi Arabia, which controls more than a quarter of the global crude reserves, made no discoveries in 1995, with its oil resources staying at around 261.3 billion barrels. The reserves of the other major oil powers, Iraq, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) also remained unchanged at

nearly 112 billion, 96.5 billion and 98.1 billion barrels respectively.

Their gas wealth also recorded small increases but it was sharply revised up in Qatar to 8.98 trillion cubic metres (299.3 trillion cubic feet) at the end of 1995 from around 7.07 trillion cubic metres (235.6 trillion cubic feet) at the end of 1993, OAPEC figures showed.

But Qatar, a tiny Gulf oil producer, has taken advantage of such huge discoveries to launch multi-billion-dollar downstream projects involving the biggest liquefied natural gas complex in the world.

"Gulf states and other Arab oil producers are now focusing on expanding their refining and petrochemical sectors," a Gulf-based industry source said.

"In the upstream sector, they are still engaged in boosting their wellhead production capacity but you can notice most of them have scaled down exploration activities after most of their areas have been covered," he added.

In the UAE, the government has just approved a project to build its first petrochemical complex to tap its massive gas reserves.

The project, which will be completed in 2000, will cost around \$1 billion. The project coincides with other ventures involving building new refineries and expanding the existing units. When completed, the projects will raise the UAE's overall refining capacity to nearly 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) from around 250,000 bpd currently.

The UAE has also set its eyes on overseas markets, with the launching of a joint refining venture in Pakistan in 1995. The \$756 million refinery in Multan will produce 100,000 bpd when it is commissioned in 2000.

It is also considering a similar venture in India and pushing into the lucrative refining market in Romania.

Saudi Arabia is also expanding its sector although it already accounts for 30 per cent of the total Arab refining capacity. The state-owned Aramco company is planning to set up

two joint refining projects in China with a combined capacity of more than 400,000 bpd, according to OAPEC.

Aramco will control 40 per cent of the first refinery, which will cost between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion and produce 200,000-300,000 bpd. The second project includes expansion of a government refinery in Maoming by around 100,000 bpd at a cost of nearly \$1 billion.

The Saudi government and the private sector are also both engaged in expansion of the internal refining sector to face growing demand.

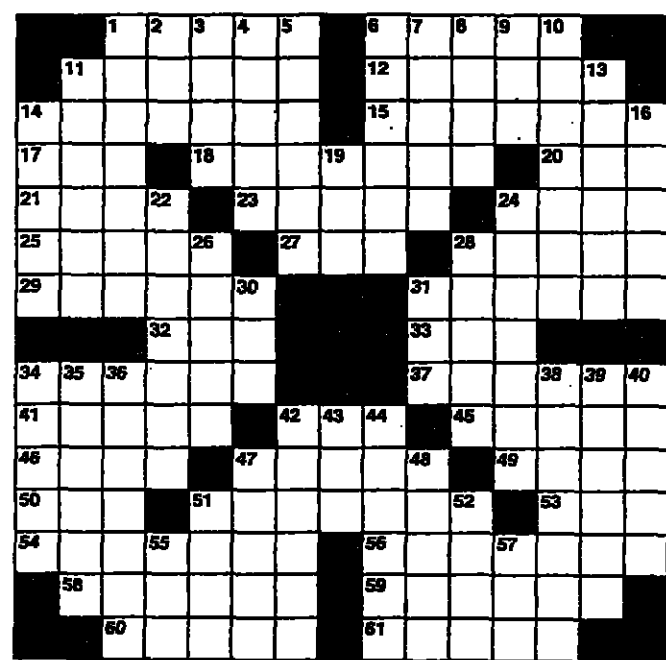
In petrochemicals, the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC)

pressed ahead with projects to raise its capacity. One of these projects involves setting up a methanol plant at Al Razi petrochemical complex, which is jointly owned by Mitsubishi and other Japanese firms.

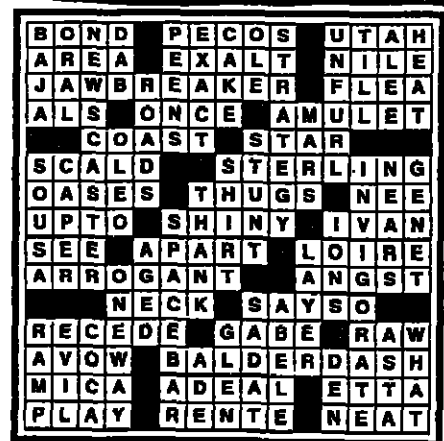
Kuwait, which has rehabilitated its war-damaged refineries, is also expanding capacity by around 500,000 bpd and is setting up a new petrochemical complex with an output of 650,000 tonnes of ethylene and 450,000 tonnes of polyethylene per year. The government and the U.S.-based Union Carbide Company own 45 per cent each of the venture while the rest is held by a private Kuwaiti firm.

THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker

- ACROSS**
- Grouch
 - Floats
 - Apportioned
 - Printing mistakes
 - Pedicure item
 - tear
 - Historic time
 - Totally conspicuous
 - Vive le —!
 - Legal reps.
 - Quick drink
 - School jacket
 - Hunts
 - Daily
 - VCR button
 - Arcaro and Cantor
 - One who speaks a certain way
 - Mormon initials
 - Quantity: abbr.
 - Pill
 - Cosset
 - Actress Stella
 - Hood's gun
 - Rush forth
 - Cold
 - Is sympathetic
 - Require
 - Globe
 - Tremulous
 - light
 - SL
 - Interstellar dust masses
 - Laundry worker
 - Reply sharply
 - Kind of fungus
 - Thin in tone
 - Stage direction
- DOWN**
- Broke rules
 - Managed
 - Spirited horse
 - Simon and Diamond
 - Canadian songstress
 - Bonus kin
 - "— we all?"
 - College club
 - Paving stuff
 - Pick a fight
 - Categorized
 - "Marriage is —" (Don Quixote)
 - Rib
 - Eatery
 - In addition
 - Spider
 - Photography VIP
 - Passover meal
 - Certain cottons
 - Rapid transport
 - Once around the track
 - Bird's weapon
 - Worshiper
 - Fat
 - Gratifying one
 - Pigskin number
 - Cup, in golf
 - Glee
 - Branch
 - Place of worship
 - Leaf vegetable
 - Finch
 - gin fizz
 - Geometric figure: abbr.
 - Indian
 - Haggard title



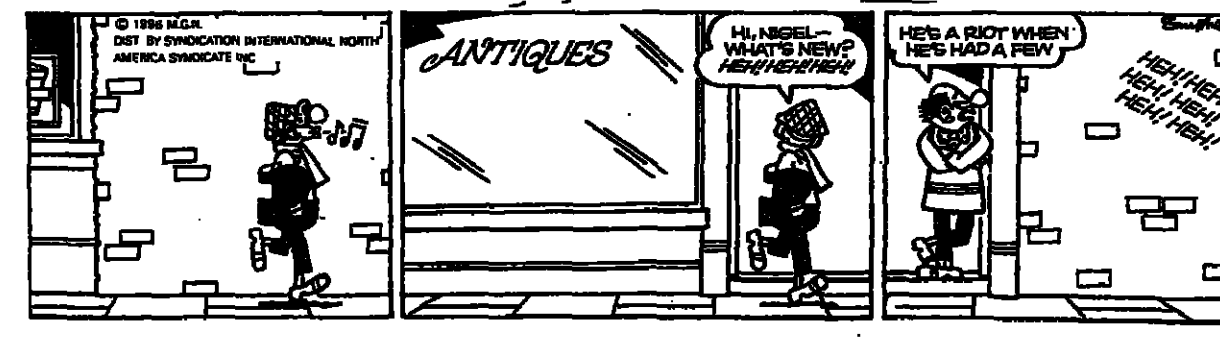
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Peanuts



Andy Capp



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organisati
in Jordan
brings tot
to eight

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Cantona on the mark as Manchester United win 3-0

LONDON (R) — Eric Cantona, the key figure in Manchester United's league and cup double triumph in May, launched their new season with a typical goal in the 3-0 win over Wimbledon Saturday.

The gifted Frenchman latched on to a cross from Nicky Butt midway through the first half and drove a fierce half volley beyond goalkeeper Neil Sullivan.

United's class brought further goals from Dennis Irwin and David Beckham in the second half.

While United made a flying start to the new campaign, Newcastle, parading the world's costliest player in Alan Shearer, had a nightmare day, losing 2-0 at Everton.

Shearer, who cost big spenders Newcastle £15 million (\$23.2 million) to recruit from Blackburn, had a headed goal disallowed in the first half and later struck the bar with another header.

But Newcastle can take heart from the fact that the champions lost their opening league game last season, 3-1 to Aston Villa.

Fabrizio Ravanelli, one of several big-name foreigners plying their trade in the Premier League this season, scored a hat-trick on his debut for Middlesbrough, his last in the 81st minute earning them a 3-3 home

draw with Liverpool. Kevin Campbell was another hat-trick man. He struck three times in the opening 47 minutes in Nottingham Forest's 3-0 win at Coventry.

Cantona, playing on the ground where his kung-fu attack on a Crystal Palace fan 18 months ago cost him a lengthy ban, was at the heart of much of United's inventive build-up.

But it was Beckham who earned the biggest roar from the United fans with a superb goal in the final minute. Sporting Sullivan off his line, he lobbed the Wimbledon goalkeeper from the half-way line.

Irwin had similarly embarrassed Sullivan with a shot from an acute angle in the 57th minute.

Newcastle, routed 4-0 by United in the Charity Shield last week, must quickly put their house in order if they are to be serious challengers for a championship they have not won since 1927.

Hard though Shearer worked to mark his debut with a goal, he was outshone by Everton's Scotland international striker Duncan Ferguson.

His sheer physical presence created both goals, a 29th minute David Unsworth penalty and a 40th minute strike by Gary

Speed. Middlesbrough made an immediate return on the £7 million (\$10.8 million) they paid Juventus for Ravanelli.

He cancelled out a Stig Bjornebye fourth minute strike with a 26th minute penalty and scored again 10 minutes later after John Barnes had restored Liverpool's lead.

A Robbie Fowler goal midway through the second half threatened to spoil Ravanelli's day but the never-say-die Italian came up trumps again nine minutes from time.

Campbell, scorer of eight goals in pre-season friendlies, was far too much of a handful for a leaden-footed Coventry defence.

He put Forest ahead after 13 minutes, came close to scoring twice more before adding a second in the 36th minute and then sealed Coventry's fate with a third two minutes into the second half.

Chris Armstrong, scorer of 22 goals last season, came close to registering a hat-trick in Tottenham's 2-0 win at Blackburn.

After clinical strikes in the 33rd and 67th minutes, he watched his curling left-footer clip the bar in the dying minutes.

Arsenal, who sacked manager Bruce Rioch a few days before the start of the

season, also won 2-0. John Hartson gave them the lead against West Ham in the 27th minute. Dutch international Dennis Bergkamp added the second from the penalty spot after 40 minutes.

Promoted Derby, 2-0 down at home to Leeds after 77 minutes, stormed back to draw 3-3. Dean Sturridge earning them a point with a last-minute goal.

Meanwhile English third division club Brighton were found guilty Friday of failure to control their crowd at a home match in April.

An F.A. Disciplinary Committee deducted three championship points from the club and also ordered them to play one match behind closed doors, though both penalties are suspended until the end of the coming season.

They will be enforced if there is any serious misconduct involving Brighton supporters home or away.

The match against York was abandoned after only 16 minutes after both goals were wrecked, and injuries and arrests followed as thousands of fans ran on to the field to protest at the sale of the club's Goldstone ground and proposals to share a ground with Portsmouth.

Sacchi to stay on as Italy coach — for now

ROME (R) — Arrigo Sacchi will stay on as coach of Italy's national soccer team at least for the rest of 1996 which includes two World Cup qualifiers, newspapers reported Saturday.

They said that Raffaele Pagnozzi, the new temporary head of Italy's National Soccer Federation, had agreed to retain Sacchi for the games against Moldova and Georgia scheduled for Oct. 5 and 9.

Pagnozzi was named "extraordinary commissioner" last Monday after Italy's clubs failed to find a replacement for federation President Antonio Matarrese, who resigned after Italy's poor showing at the European Championship finals last June.

Italians had called for Sacchi's head after Italy crashed out of the first round of the finals in England, but the former Milan coach has refused to resign and has a lucrative contract that expires in 1998.

"If this mess inside the federation did not exist, Sacchi would never have managed to survive as coach of the national team," Gazzetta dello Sport wrote in an editorial.

It said the "Sacchi question" would be reevaluated at the end of the year when a new federation president was expected to be appointed.

League chiefs had seemed to want under-21 and Olympic coach Cesare Maldini to replace Sacchi, who led Italy to the final of the 1994 World Cup. But this support faded after the squad's Olympic defeat.



FC St. Pauli's Jens Scharping (2nd from right) holds FC Bayern Munich's striker Juergen Klinsmann (right) while his teammate Dirk Dammann and Munich's Christian Nerlinger fight for the ball (centre) during a first soccer league match in Hamburg, Friday. Bayern Munich won the match 2-1 (Reuter photo)

Leverkusen hit four past Dortmund

BONN (R) — Two early goals by Bayer Leverkusen set them up for a 4-2 victory over champions Borussia Dortmund in their opening Bundesliga match Saturday.

Leverkusen were 2-0 up after the first seven minutes through goals by Paulo Sergio and Ulf Kirsten.

Dortmund, hit by injuries to German internationals Matthias Sammer, Steffen Freund and Karl-Heinz Riedle as well as newcomers Paulo Sousa and Rene Schneider, hit back before the interval to level the scores.

Scottish newcomer Paul Lambert scored from a magnificent cross from Stephane Chapuisat and five minutes later Ghanian Ibrahim Tanko, making his first appearance since October, added the second.

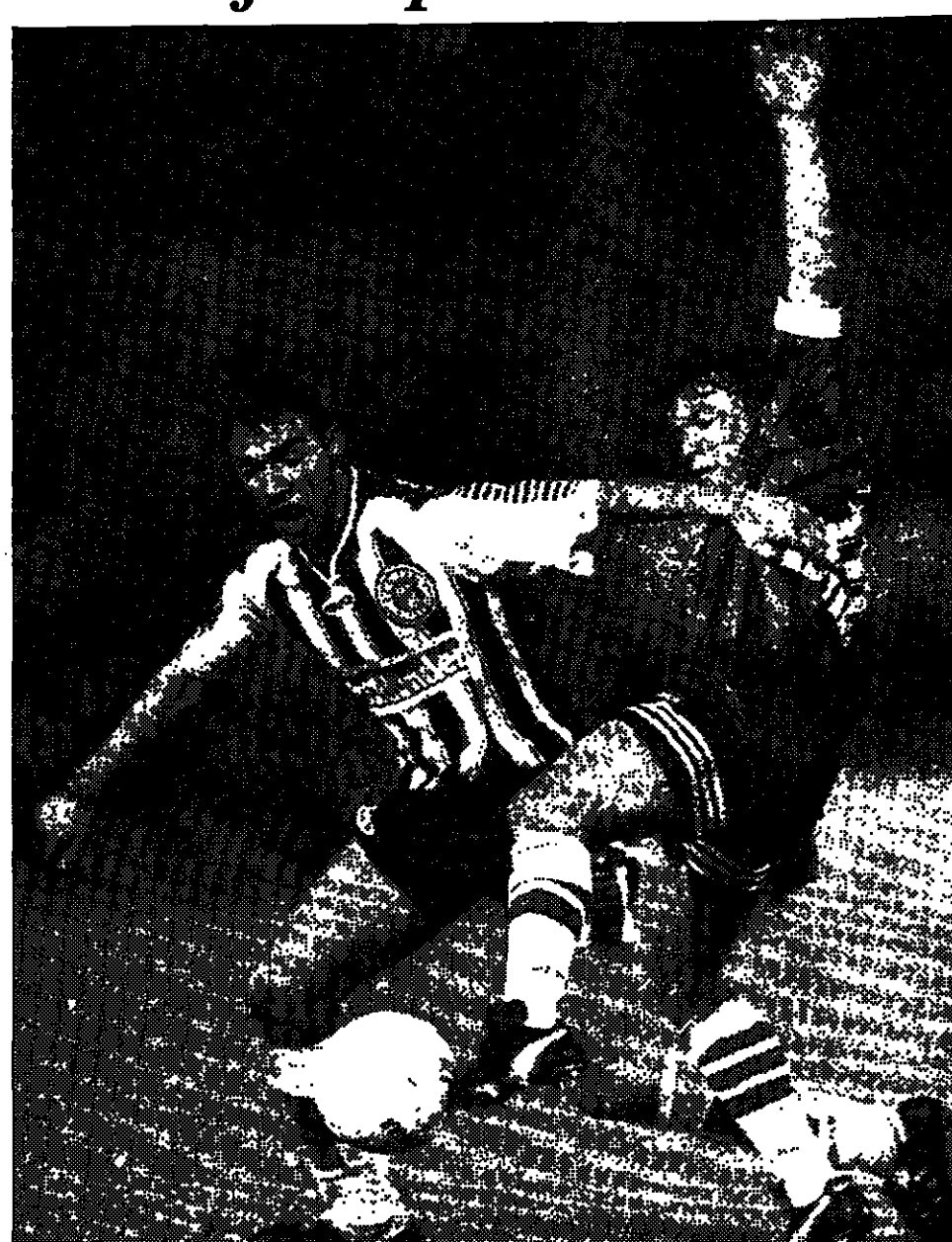
But Holger Fach restored Leverkusen's lead shortly after the interval and nine minutes from the end Rene Rydlewicz took advantage of Dortmund's shaky defence to add the fourth.

Championship favourites Bayern Munich made a good start to their season Friday when they beat St. Pauli 2-1 at home.

Martin Driller surprised Bayern with a 19th minute goal before new signings Ruggiero Rizzitelli and Mario Basler scored within the space of three minutes for the visitors shortly before the interval.

Newly promoted Arminia Bielefeld sprang a surprise when they managed a goalless away draw at Borussia Moenchengladbach who ended last season in fourth place.

Stuttgart, playing without a head trainer after Rolf Fringer left to guide the Swiss national team, pro-



FC St. Pauli's Christian Springer (left) and FC Bayern Munich's Lothar Matthaeus fight for the ball during a German first soccer league match in Hamburg Friday (Reuter photo)

vided a surprise by whipping UEFA Cup hopefuls Schalke 4-0.

Giovane Elber, Mathias Hagner, Krassimir Balakov and German international Fredi Bobic provided the goals.

Despite a strong come-

back, Werder Bremen fell 3-2 in Freiburg. Harry Decheiver put the hosts ahead 2-0 before Andreas Herzog answered with two goals of his own.

But a penalty by Alain Sutter four minutes from time sealed victory.

Munich 1860 had a comfortable 2-1 win over Hamburg with Bernhard Winkler scoring twice, one of them from the penalty spot. Hamburg's only success came through an own goal by Marco Walker four minutes from the end.

Bilardo announces more changes at Boca

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Boca Juniors coach Carlos Bilardo, who Wednesday announced he would ditch three key players, said Friday more changes were on the way after the team's failure to win the Argentine Clausura Championship.

Boca's title challenge ended with a 1-0 defeat at home to Racing Club last week and has already resulted in Diego Maradona announcing he would quit the club.

Bilardo, who as coach led Argentina to World Cup triumph in 1986 and the runners-up place four years later, said that up to

five more players could be leaving the club before the new championship which begins in September.

"We are doing everything we can to build a great team because the only necessity we have is to be champions. To come second is no good in a club like Boca," he said.

"There could be developments next week but I cannot say what they will be."

On Wednesday, he had a meeting with goalkeeper Fernando Montoya, full-back Carlos MacAllister and midfielder Fabian Carizo, all Boca stalwarts. The players said Bilardo

had told them: "You are not in my plans any more."

Boca, Argentina's best supported club, have not won a title since 1992, an eternity by their standards.

In the meantime, they have been forced into the shadow of relatively modest Velez Sarsfield, who have won two Argentine titles and claimed the South American Libertadores Cup since 1993.

Much was promised at the start of the championship when directors managed to persuade Maradona and Bilardo, who had been feuding for several years, to work together again and signed interna-

tional striker Claudio Caniggia.

Maradona was Argentina's captain and enjoyed his finest international performances under Bilardo.

Boca, despite some awful moments that included a 6-0 home drubbing by Gimnasia Y Esgrima La Plata and frequent injuries to Maradona, stayed in contention until just over a week ago.

The title will be decided over the weekend between leaders Velez Sarsfield, who are at home to Independiente, and second-placed Gimnasia, who are one point behind and play away to Estudiantes.

Disappointed by Atlanta performance, Japan plans to develop sports centre

TOKYO (AP) — Stung by its lackluster showing at the Atlanta Olympics, Japan might not develop better athletes right away, but it has plans for the next best thing: a state-of-the-art sports centre.

Japanese athletes came home this year with a mere three gold medals, the second worst run for the gold since 1952, when the still war-hobbled nation won a lone gold medal at Helsinki, Finland.

The government has announced it would begin construction next year of a National Sports Science Centre outside Tokyo that is expected to open in 2000. No provisional budget has been released.

The centre has been on the drawing board since 1989, but Japan's listless show at Atlanta — where it also won six silver medals and five bronze — was apparently the nudge needed to get construction moving.

Hiroyoshi Watanabe, an official at the Ministry of Education, said the centre was aimed at bolstering the country's athletic level by taking a more "scientific approach" to training.

The 16,200 square-metre (180,000 square-foot) centre will be used for research in sports science, with training rooms, a gym and camp training to provide data and information to top athletes.

The response is not unusual in construction-crazy

Japan, where construction crews jump to action when officials fear they are behind in prestigious endeavours. The prevalence of concert halls in Tokyo, for example, is testimony to official zeal to match the musical level of Europe and the United States.

Watanabe said the sports science centre was first conceived after the Seoul games in 1988, when Japan was bested by rival South Korea.

The centre complements a proposed "national training centre plan," which is to include facilities for camp training and training coaches, he said. That project is under consideration by the government.

Paralympic officials search for Iraq's team

ATLANTA (AP) — Less than a month after an Iraqi weightlifter defected during the Olympics, Paralympic officials are looking for the Iraqi Paralympic team.

"They had not arrived in the Paralympic village as of 4 p.m. Friday," said Steve Goldberg, spokesman for the Atlanta Paralympic Organising Committee. "We are working to determine their whereabouts."

He did not know the number of Iraqi athletes

scheduled to compete in the Paralympics. The Iraqi men's wheelchair basketball team, the country's first scheduled competition, forfeited a game when they failed to appear, Goldberg said.

Organisers of the international disabled games, which started Friday and end Aug. 25, aren't sure if the team even arrived in Atlanta. The team did not attend Thursday night's opening ceremony and organisers could not reach anyone from the country

Friday, Goldberg said.

Weightlifter Raed Ahmad, 29, stirred a political controversy by bolting on July 31, just a few days after carrying his country's flag at the Olympic opening ceremony.

Ahmad, who said he was granted asylum in the United States, said he was defecting because of continued government oppression and atrocities against citizens in his homeland.

Wilkins wins 3rd U.S. swimming title

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (R) — Tom Wilkins, one of the leading U.S. hopefuls for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, won his third title Friday at the Phillips 66 National Swimming Championships.

Wilkins, 20, won the 200-metre individual medley in two minutes, 3.19 seconds. He also won the 200 breaststroke and 400 individ-

ual medley earlier in the week.

"I was just coming into this meet hoping to come away with one title and now I'm thinking about the Olympics," Wilkins said.

Jennifer Parmenter, 15, another Olympic prospect, also won her third title in the 200 individual medley, in 2:15.93, coming from behind in the last 20 metres. Parmenter also

won the 400 m and 400 freestyle.

Other winners included Diana Munz, 14, in the 1,500-metre freestyle in 16:36.44, and Chris Thompson, 17, in the men's 1,500-metre free-style in 15:23.72. Bill Pilczuk won the men's 50 freestyle in 22.68 and Liesl Kolbisen won the women's 50 freestyle in 26.11.

<p>TODAY AT</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>Clueless</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 636248 PLAZA</p> <p>Lalla Alawi & Singer Mohammad Fuad In</p> <p>Traffic Lights (Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>Toy Story 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1" * HEAT</p> <p>Shows: 9:30, 8:30</p> <p>* Something to Talk About</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 6:30</p> <p>CONCORD "2" Ace Ventura "2"</p> <p>Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 10:30</p> <p>SEVEN Shows: 8:30 ONLY</p>	<p>Amman Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275</p> <p>Today presents Zawal Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled</p> <p>Five-Star Government</p> <p>Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubeishat</p> <p>play starts 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155</p> <p>PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservation please call 625155-640155</p>
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Sports

Bailey bounces back, Henkel bows out at Cologne Grand Prix

COLOGNE, Germany (R) — Olympic sprint champion Donovan Bailey bounced back from defeat with a victory and a smile while former gold medalist Heike Henkel left athletics with a tear in her eye at the Cologne Grand Prix Friday.

Bailey, beaten over 100 metres at the richest meeting in athletics in Zurich Wednesday, produced the same strong finish which took him to Olympic gold and a world record of 9.84 seconds in Atlanta to beat a world-class 100 metres field.

Competing in her last major event, the svelte, blonde-haired Henkel, the 1992 Olympic women's high jump champion, could only clear 1.90 metres but left her home stadium with a standing ovation ringing in her ears.

"Those were the nicest moments of my career but at the same time the saddest," Henkel said. "Many thanks to Cologne. What is my future? That's simple — family, career and a bit of highjumping."

American Dennis Mitchell, who had beaten Bailey in Zurich, could not live with the Canadian in the final 20 metres of the men's sprint, the highlight of the meeting.

Bailey powered through to win in 10.03 seconds despite damp conditions with Mitchell second in 10.07.

Namibia's Olympic silver medalist Frankie Fredericks was third with 10.14. Trinidad's Atlanta bronze medalist Ato Boldon could only finish fifth in 10.19 behind fourth-placed Canadian Bruny Surin (10.16).

As world and Olympic sprint champion, Bailey can command a huge appearance fee for turning up at meetings around Europe. In Zurich, for example, he was likely to have picked up at least \$70,000 for just putting on his spikes.

"How much would I as a meet director pay the winner of a race like this. Believe me, a lot," he said afterwards.

"Because you had both the Olympic winner and world record holder in the field," Mitchell, sporting his usual bright green outfit, started brilliantly and was ahead of Bailey halfway. But the towering Canadian ate up the ground in the last 50 metres.

Jamaican Michael Green, seventh in the Olympic final, pulled up in severe pain in the last 20 metres with what appeared to be a

leg muscle strain.

Cologne organisers tried to liven up a coolish evening by playing music with a strong beat during the distance races and even playing quiet but dramatic movie-type background music as the athletes stepped up to the start line.

But it did not help the distance runners to records. The most emotional moment of the evening did not need any melody at all. Henkel's face said it all.

The 32-year-old high jumper, one of the most popular athletes in Germany, has struggled to return to her top form since she gave birth to her first child at the start of 1994.

The German failed to qualify for the Atlanta Olympics and has decided she does not have the competitive edge to continue at the top level.

She was clearly holding back the tears when she was presented to the crowd before the meeting. She was roared on by the German fans when she did a lap of the track after dropping out of the competition at an early stage.

Just two days after the Zurich meeting, it was difficult for the Olympic stars to lift their form again.

Russia's double Olympic

champion Svetlana Masterkova, who broke the women's mile world record in Zurich, looked on autopilot as she cruised to another victory in the 1,500 in four minutes 04.54 seconds.

Romanian Gabriela Szabo won a tight finish in the women's 5,000 metres in a fast 14 minutes 44.42 seconds. Italian Roberta Brunet was just run out in the final 10 metres, clocking 14:44.50 in second place.

Norway's Olympic champion Vebjørn Rodal won the men's 800 metres in one minute 43.67 seconds while Morocco's Hicham Al Guerrouj took the men's 1,500 metres in 3:33.45 and his compatriot Khalid Boulami clinched victory in the men's 3,000 in 7:33.92.

In the women's 100 metres Jamaican veteran Merlene Ottey took the scalp of American Olympic champion Gail Devers for the second time in three days.

Devers just pipped Ottey at the Olympics in the tightest of photo finishes. But the Jamaican beat Devers in Zurich and produced another strong performance in the German city to win in 10.98 seconds.

American Gwen Torrence, third in Atlanta, was second in 10.99 with Devers third in 11.12.



Canada's Donovan Bailey (left) screams with joy after winning the men's 100 metres dash at the international track meeting in Cologne Friday. Bailey clocked a time of 10.03 seconds ahead of Dennis Mitchell (right) from the USA who clocked the 2nd fastest time of 10.07 (Reuter photo)



PSG BEATS CAEN: Paris Saint Germain's Alain Roche (right) fights for the ball with Emmanuel Rival of Caen in their French League match in Paris Friday. Paris defeated Caen 2-0 (Reuter photo)

Davenport downs Coetzer to earn a shot at Graf

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (AFP) — Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport survived some erratic serving to pull off a three-set victory over Amanda Coetzer Friday to reach the semifinals of the \$450,000 women's tennis tournament here.

Davenport, the fourth seed, beat the fifth-seeded South African 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, but she said she'd have to play better to beat world number one and top seed Steffi Graf Saturday.

The second semifinal will pit second-seeded German Anke Huber against seventh-seeded Slovakian Karina Habsudova.

Habsudova, who has jumped 77 places in the rankings in sixth months to number 21, defeated the world number eight and third seed K. J. Nikolic 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Huber also needed three sets, recovering from a rocky second set to beat sixth-seeded Romanian Irina Spirlea 6-3, 6-7 (1/7), 6-4.

Davenport said problems with her serve were the main weakness in her game.

"It's one thing I felt let me down a little bit," she said. "My toss was all over the place. You've got to get first serves in, especially on this court it's so fast, and against players like her who return well."

After dropping the first game of the

third set, Davenport reeled off five games in a row to lead 5-1.

Coetzer said mental lapses cost her in the third set.

"I let a few games slip, missed a few shots and I felt a little disappointed and dejected," she said. "I didn't lift myself mentally."

Coetzer said Davenport would have to serve better to beat Graf, who reached the semifinals Thursday with a straight-set win over eighth-seeded Amy Frazier. Davenport, who is 0-4 against Graf, agreed.

"I'm going to have to improve my game a lot to give her a run," Davenport said. "You have to serve well against Steffi."

In a tournament in which the top eight seeds all reached the quarters, Habsudova's victory over Date was the biggest upset of the week.

"It's a great win for me," she said. "I never played her before, and she has a lot more experience in matches like this."

Habsudova said her sharp rise in the rankings was a bit misleading, since she was unable to defend points while she recovered from a left achilles tendon injury.

"I was up there before I was injured," she said. "I wasn't as high as I am now, but I was ranked 26th when I started having problems."

Her goal was to get back in the top 20 by the end of the year, and perhaps even to earn a seeding for the U.S. Open.

She survived a tense seventh game in the third set, needing eight game points to hold for a 5-2 lead, then broke date to love in the next game as the Japanese player double faulted on the last two points of the match.

"I really made bad errors when I was 4-0 up," she said of the penultimate game. "I couldn't wait until she missed and I went for it. After that, I felt kind of intimidated by losing those points from 4-0."

Habsudova has beaten Huber twice this year, and the second-seeded German has needed some luck to get through her last two matches.

"I just played a horrible tiebreaker," Huber said of the second-set decider against Spirlea.

She also let slip a 4-0 lead in the third set, dropping her serve for the second time to let Spirlea level the set at 4-4 before winning the next two games. Spirlea dropped her serve in the ninth with a double fault on break point.

"I shouldn't have let her come back in it," Huber said. "If she hadn't missed some easy shots, I might not have won."

Sampras, Ivanisevic and Martin advance in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Top-seeded Pete Sampras cruised through his quarterfinal Friday, while second seed Goran Ivanisevic and fifth-seeded Todd Martin battled their way into the semifinals of the \$1 million RCA Championships.

Sampras stopped the surprising, 390th-ranked wild card Tommy Haas of Germany 6-4 7-5 in their quarterfinal meeting.

The seventh-ranked Ivanisevic, a semifinalist here last year, kept his cool and turned things around for a 6-7 (5-7) 7-6 (7-5) 6-2 victory over 112th-ranked Lionel Roux of France.

Martin outlasted defending champion and fourth-seeded Thomas Enqvist of Sweden by winning the final set tiebreaker 7-3 for a 6-3 1-6 7-6 victory in one hour 53 minutes.

Sampras takes on 13th-seed Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic in the semifinals. The 39th-ranked Ulihrach defeated 11th-seed Alex Corretja of Spain 6-4 7-5 to reach his first career semifinal on hardcourts and in the United States.

Ivanisevic and Martin meet in the other semifinal. World number one Sampras showed Haas, an 18-year-old newcomer to the tour, what the best has to offer.

He served at a 71 per cent

first serve percentage, including 11 aces, and never offered Haas a chance to break his serve in the 60-minute match.

"I thought my service games, I was playing very, very solid," Sampras said. "I figure, if I get my first serve going, I think I am pretty tough to break."

Haas lost his serve once in each set, in the fourth game of the first set and the seventh game of the second set.

Although Ivanisevic posted 21 aces during the two hour 17 minute match, he served at an unimpressive 47 per cent first serve percentage.

In the third set, however, Ivanisevic began serving better — he served two aces in each of his four service games and broke serve

twice.

Martin opened his match brilliantly — in his first two service games he served five aces in eight points played — and broke Enqvist's serve to take a 3-0 lead.

Enqvist picked up his play in the second set, breaking Martin's serve in the second and sixth games.

The third set was a tug of war with Martin taking a 3-1 lead and Enqvist recouping the break in the fifth game.

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (R) — The commoners revolted at the Connecticut Tennis Centre Friday toppling French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Wimbledon king Richard Krajicek at the Pilot Pen International Tournament.

Late-blooming wild card Alex O'Brien gunned down top seed Kafelnikov 6-4 6-4 in an electrifying 66-minute quarterfinal.

The second-seeded Krajicek fell four minutes

French, Wimbledon champs toppled at New Haven

faster to fellow-Dutchman Jan Siemerink 7-6 (7-3) 6-2.

O'Brien ended last year ranked 210th on the ATP computer and is presently listed at 169. The American, who won the national college title at Stanford three years ago, advanced to only his second semifinal in three years on the pro tour.

"I'm still just a scrub, but I've turned my game around lately and I'm a lot more confident than I've ever been," said O'Brien. "It proves one thing about this game — anyone can beat anyone."

Siemerink went out and proved that adage again despite carrying an 0-4

record against his old friend Krajicek. "I know I have the game to beat him but he's tough to break," said the 10th-seeded Siemerink.

In Saturday's semifinals, O'Brien will face Australian Mark Philippoussis, the 14th seed, while Siemerink goes against fourth-seeded South African Wayne Ferreira.

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3. Closing date for receipt of qualifications is noon on Thursday the 12th. of September 1996.

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